

Photo by Collette Sweeney



COMBAT IN THE SLEAZE ZONE

by Victor Miller

In October, there was action on three fronts affecting the Mission District's war on sleaze. A combined City inspection team forced the clean up of one of the area's worst hotels. A police decoy program nabbed about a dozen "johns" on solicitation charges. And State budget cuts all but eviscerated the Alcoholic Beverages Control (ABC) Agency.

On a more upbeat note, Hilda Bernstein of the Mayor's Mission Task Force (MMTF) announced that, after meeting with Mayor Agnos, Chief of Police Willis Casey and Mission Station Captain John Newlin, it was agreed the Mission will get an additional 15 cops... 8 in December and 7 in the spring of 1992.

GRAND SOUTHERN DISCOMFORT

On Thursday, October 3rd, a small army of building, electrical and plumbing inspectors, along with the S.F. Police and County Probation Department swept down on 1941 Mission Street, the 60 room Grand Southern Hotel, which was cited for over 65 violations of City codes.

Senior building inspector Rafael Torres-Gil issued a 48 hour emergency notice to owner Rubin Salem who, given the choice of correcting deficiencies within two days or having the City do the work and place a lien on the building for the cost, began repairs the following Monday.

According to Torres-Gil, all major life hazards had been corrected within three weeks of the inspection. The probation department has posted the building off limits to anyone on probation or parole because of persistent problems of prostitution and hard drug dealing at the hotel.

In fact, crime problems rather than code violations (which are civil matters) were the

main motivation behind the raid. Marshall Elementary School's playground is immediately behind the hotel, and discarded syringes have been tossed from hotel rooms onto the school yard. Dealers and customers have created a regular traffic route across the schoolyard to the hotel, enraging parents and neighbors. Across Mission Street from the front of the hotel is the School District's truant center.

Now that the hotel is physically safe to live in, the crime problem may very well remain, albeit operating in a code enforced environment. Captain John Newlin of Mission Station has promised a "maximum effort" against the sleaze at the Grand Southern, calling it a "test case for what can be done in other buildings in the area".

If the Grand Southern problem cannot be resolved by massive effort by City agencies, Mission residents must consider other avenues of attack such as demanding criminal prosecution of the owners by the District Attorney, civil suits against the owners or citizen patrols around the hotel. At any rate, this hotel has now become one of the focal points of the Mission's attempt to turn itself around.

CAPP STREET: HEEERE'S JOHNNY!

On two separate occasions in October, undercover policewomen posing as prostitutes nabbed a total of 12 suspects on the misdemeanor charge of soliciting sex.

Capp Street hookers and their customers usually operate between 15th and 17th and have been a source of constant irritation to residents and businesses of that vicinity for years. Charges of "de facto legalization of prostitution by non enforcement" leveled by Capp Street area residents at a September meeting of the Police Commission may have prompted last month's sting operation.

Police said customers were of all ages

see Page 3

INSIDE

Mission Crime Forum.....4

Ballot Endorsements.....6

Proposition "J".....7

Mayoral Frontrunners Agnos & Alioto.....8

Local Longshots Ascarrunz & La Riva.....10

Mission Library Faces Hard Times.....12

Modern Times Turns 20.....13

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DEADBEAT, MISSION DISTRICT CALENDAR,

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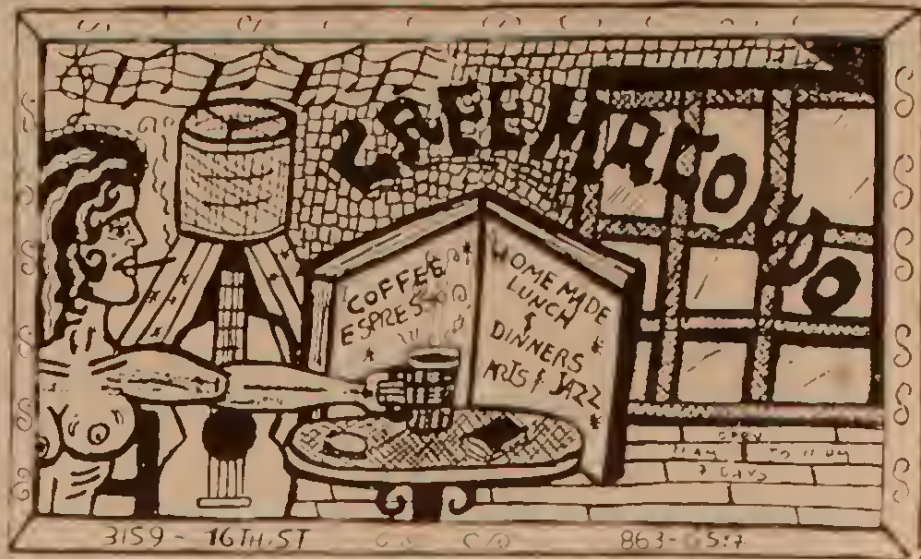
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SLEAZE ZONE

continued from page 1

and income groups, including one individual driving a Mercedes with diplomatic plates. The idea behind the operation was to make the Capp Street strip unattractive to johns and, therefore, unprofitable to the hookers.

While this seems like a reasonable idea, and many residents are happy that, at least, something is being done, the fact remains that the Mission District is the end of the line for most street prostitutes. They are nearly all plying their trade here as a last resort to support a drug habit. They are women who simply have nowhere else to go. Mission Station Captain John Newlin called Capp Street "the elephants' graveyard of prostitution".

The Capp Street sting operation is relatively new and, like the raid on the Grand Southern, will have to be evaluated in the light of changes, or lack of same, that occur over the next few months.

ABC = ALL BUT CLOSED

Advocates of stronger regulations of alcohol retailers got bad news at the Mission District Police-Community Relations meeting last month. Hilda Bernstein told the group of a trip to Sacramento in an unsuccessful attempt to lobby against ABC cuts. She was followed by an unusually glum State Senator Quentin Kopp who admitted his plan to rescue the ABC budget by increasing alcohol license fees was doomed to defeat because of the power of the state liquor lobby.

"That liquor lobby really goes to work," Kopp told the crowd. (An identical bill by Kopp to raise license fees which have remained unchanged for 25 years was handily defeated last year.)

Kopp went on to bemoan the effectiveness of the pro-booze forces but offered no positive suggestions. The proposal to create a "special use district" in the Mission which would set a ceiling on the number of alcohol retailers was put forward, but met with little enthusiasm since it merely guarantees a status quo many find intolerable.

The ABC cuts will probably have dramatic effects in the Mission District, which has one retail alcohol permit for every 82 people. The ABC will now have only four investigators to monitor 3,800 liquor outlets in San Francisco and San Mateo counties.

Public drunkenness and related problems are seen by many Mission residents as the principal factor in the district's quality of life.

Supervisor Jim Gonzalez said he will introduce legislation to the Board of Supervisors that would charge liquor license holders \$1,000 a year if they sold fortified wines or beer. Funds raised would be designated to meet the increased costs of city services, especially police and health, which are caused by alcohol abuse.

Several recommendations by Mission residents were made at the meeting. The most warmly received was that the City be empowered to have the right of first refusal of

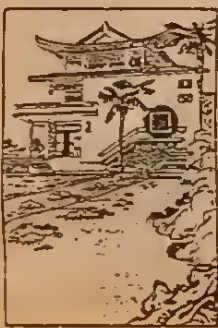


The Grand Southern Hotel: Sleaze Central

any liquor permit offered for sale. In theory, the City could buy up permits in a problem area and simply not use them, actually reducing the number of alcohol retailers.

As it stands now, bars and liquor stores

are more or less free of ABC scrutiny. Establishments that have made a living out of sleaze and misery will undoubtedly take full advantage of the opportunity at the expense of the rest of us.



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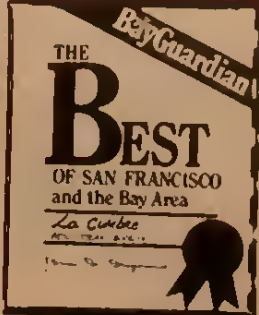
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This incredible new documentary focuses on the lunatic vision of the Third Reich from the twisted aesthetic point of view of the Nazi hierarchy, particularly Hitler's. With World War II a self-concocted, raging inferno around him, Hitler elected to obsess rather than on the cultural artifacts that surrounded himself: painting, sculpture and especially architecture. The Nazi philosophy of "beauty through violence" is brilliantly recorded and astutely interpreted, using an onslaught of archival materials, the Führer visiting his personally curated annual art show, showing off his Alpine cottage, his sketches for flags and uniforms, his postcard quality architectural drawings. Narrated by Bruno Ganz. Music by Hector Berlioz and Richard Wagner. Written, produced and directed by Peter Cohen. 119 mins. 1990. Sweden. In German, with English subtitles.

□ NIGHTLY at 7:00 and 9:30; additional Sat, Sun, Wed matinees at 2:00 and 4:30

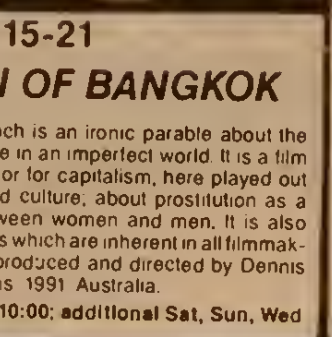


□ Fri-Thur • Nov 15-21

GOOD WOMAN OF BANGKOK

A documentary fiction film which is an ironic parable about the impossibility of living a good life in an imperfect world. It is a film about prostitution as a metaphor for capitalism, here played out across the borders of race and culture, about prostitution as a metaphor for all relations between women and men. It is also about the voyeuristic tendencies which are inherent in all filmmaking and film viewing. Written, produced and directed by Dennis O'Rourke. Color 35mm. 82 mins. 1991. Australia.

□ NIGHTLY at 6:00, 8:00 and 10:00; additional Sat, Sun, Wed matinees at 2:00 and 4:00



□ Fri-Thur • Nov 22-28

THE YEN FAMILY

A truly funny, scathingly blunt attack on the accumulation of wealth in a capitalist country on the upswing. A picture-perfect family, the Kimuras work hard to get ahead in modern Japan. Their all-out attack on the pursuit of material splendor seems to know no limits, and before long the surreal becomes the real. As light-hearted as the film is, it raises relevant issues which, combined with the film's droll approach to the subject, become genuinely troubling. With Takeshi Kaga, Kaori Momoi. Directed by Yojiro Takita. Color 35mm. 113 mins. 1987. Japanese, with English subtitles.

□ NIGHTLY at 7:00 and 9:30; additional Sat, Sun, Wed matinees at 2:00 and 4:30



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GUARDIAN ANGELS SET UP CRIME FORUM



by Sara Catania

Lately the Guardian Angels, known for their vigilante peace-keeping techniques, have been popping up, red-bereted and formidable, at neighborhood block parties and on Mission street corners. With more than half of the fourteen-year-old organization's San Francisco membership Latin and from the Mission, the Angels have traditionally been rooted in the area. Under the leadership of Guardian Angels' area coordinator Chris Ford, they have joined forces with neighborhood organizations in a renewed effort to reduce crime in the Mission.

In the past few months the Angels, who patrol the Mission Wednesday through Friday nights, have organized a Mission Crime Forum which meets with community organizations "to give people a format for networking," Ford said. The meetings have resulted in a forum agenda which focuses on specific areas of crime concern. The Crime Forum plans to "pressure the Mayor's Mission Task Force to clean up the residential hotels" around 16th and Mission streets, Ford said. "They are open drug and prostitution dens and community organizations want them fined," he added.

People have also expressed interest in organizing a civilian-run street patrol, similar to one in the Castro that Ford helped organize. The Julian Street Neighborhood Organization is one of the groups working closely with the

Guardian Angels. Ford said they have also been contacted by neighbors on Albion Street. "I see the Mission as being one of the areas as ideal for citizen patrolling," Ford said.

Ford says that close to 20 community patrol groups have been organized in Los Angeles in the past ten years. One patrol, the Ivar Hawks in Hollywood, carried cameras and took pictures of drug deals and other illegal actions, helping police identify suspects.

Law enforcement officials were encouraging but expressed doubt about the effectiveness of a Mission community patrol. "I'm always in favor of citizens coming together to protect themselves," said Larry Ratti, Sergeant, Mission Police Station and head of the Mission Community Police Officer's Program. "The Guardian Angels tried it before, about five years ago and didn't have much impact," he said. "The concept is good but it never seems to come off as much as their reputation says."

Ford said that the "attitude of police in the Mission is the same as you'll find throughout San Francisco: they're supportive to a point but sometimes we don't directly agree on all issues."

The Guardian Angels' Mission headquarters are located in the recreation room of the Mission Plaza Apartments, 2027 Mission at 16th Street, 255-8447. The office is staffed Wednesday through Friday nights. All other times they can be reached at the 24-hour Tenderloin office at 931-7099.



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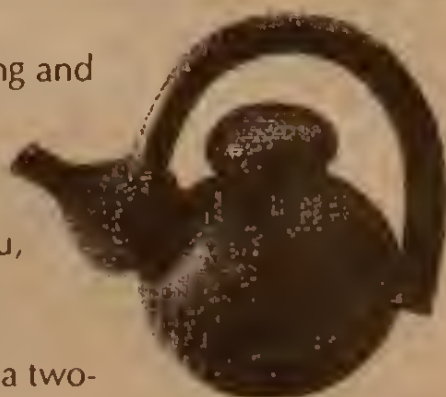
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City Propositions:

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Propositions A-E | No... Anti-Labor |
| Proposition H | Yes...Seven Deputy Mayors Are A Bit Too Much |
| Proposition J | Yes...The Children's Amendment |
| Proposition K | No... Save Domestic Partnership |
| Proposition L | Yes...Senior Housing |
| Proposition M | Yes...Vacancy Control |
| Proposition N | No...We've Had Enough Condo Conversions |
| Proposition P | Yes...Hemp Medicine |

NORTH MISSION NEWS

BALLOT

ENDORSEMENTS

by Victor Miller and Brian Doohan

If the California government had maintained the tax on free newspapers, we'd have been legally able to endorse a candidate for Mayor. Fortunately, such was not the case, and we are restricted to offering the following suggestions on the San Francisco ballot propositions. On the two measures we did not agree on, we've given individual reasons. Read the Voter's Handbook, see who's pro and con, what any other sources that you trust say and vote your conscience.

PROPOSITIONS A THROUGH G - YES

All these matters were approved by at least 8 Supervisors and pertain to City employees. We're not entirely happy with the budget process, but rejecting any of these measures could bring more trouble in the form of strikes, legal action and other plagues than the satisfaction of voting NO would be worth.

PROPOSITION H - NO ENDORSEMENT

This is the infamous Deputy Mayor Ban. "We don't need these expensive huns. Throw them out... Vote YES!" (Victor) "A cheap political trick that only proved the Mayor won't stand up for his own people when the chips are down. Vote No!" (Brian)

PROPOSITIONS I and J - YES! YES!

Proposition J requires minimum funding for children's services and if you don't believe in investing in our future don't write us any

whining letters about illiterate clerks who overcharge you at the Burger King or unemployed youth who steal your car radio. Prop. I allows minors to serve on commissions and task forces, we think it should be extended to elective office. Kids can't do any worse than many of our pols and they'd be cheaper to bribe... a couple of candy bars, sneakers, video games...

PROPOSITION K - NO! NO!

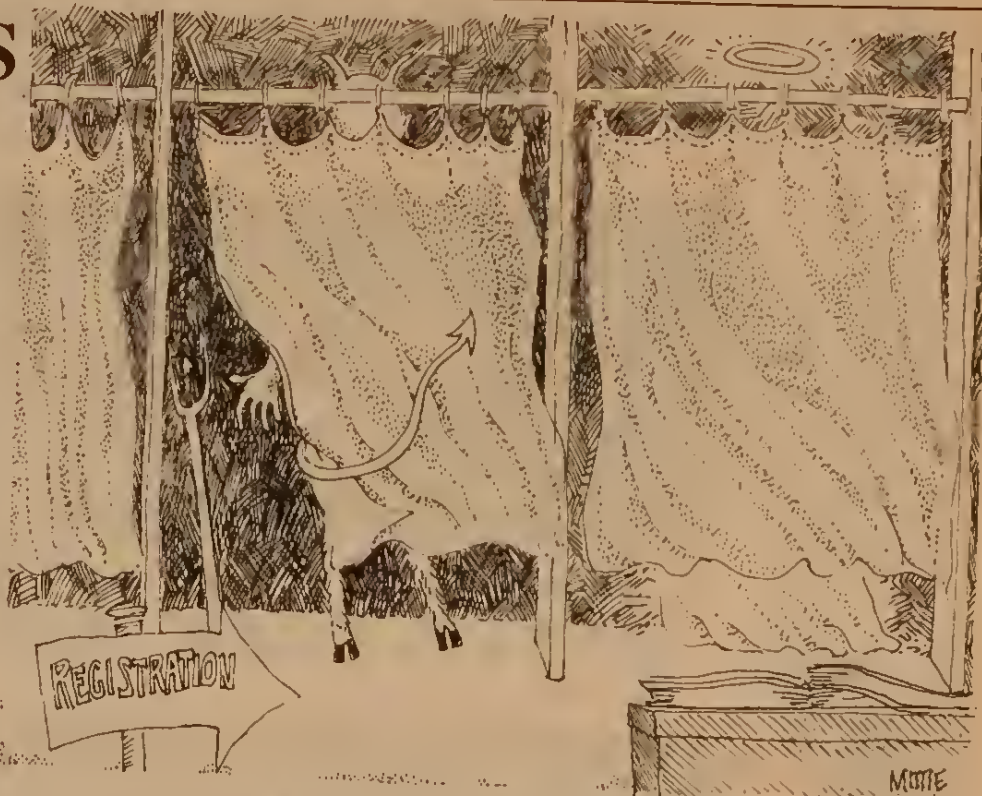
This repeals the Domestic Partners legislation which hasn't led to the costs opponents say it would. The bigots who sponsored Prop. K are like the Energizer Rabbit... they just keep on coming. Time to knock them down again.

PROPOSITION L - NO ENDORSEMENT

A referendum on senior housing at Balboa Reservoir... the fourth time it's been on the ballot. "Only the boneheads in City Hall would cram senior housing instead of student housing between City College and its major transit artery. Vote NO! (Brian) "We're all going to get old, we need more senior housing and it's better than setting them adrift on an ice floe. Vote Yes!" (Victor)

PROPOSITION M - YES

This is the vacancy rent control ordinance. Frankly, the legislation is insipid. But we do not subscribe to the philosophy of "heightening contradictions" - making things worse in the short run so that better legislation can be achieved in the long run and, besides,



the landlords' sleazy campaign deserves to be shot down on its own merits. Vote YES and keep working for real rent control.

PROPOSITION N - NO! NO!

A cynical condo conversion measure whose beneficiary will be the slimeball responsible for the ugly condos out at Ocean Beach. The so-called "tenants" fronting for this garbage would be able to buy their apartments at a discount and turn around and sell them at market rate. It's a full employment measure for the benefit of crooks, developers and lawyers.

PROPOSITIONS O, P, Q - YES

These are policy declarations, which means they are unenforceable and thus beneficial only to their publicity-seeking sponsors. Proposition O supports the First Amendment. Maybe those who seek to overturn it will do so directly in their quest to ban flag burning, homosexuality, etc. Maybe not. Prop. P sup-

ports medicinal use of marijuana, the prohibition of which is a cut and dried case of official sadism. There's a drug problem in the Mission but it's not the fault of cancer and AIDS chemotherapy patients who can't keep down their food or glaucoma victims who have enough trouble seeing their own muggers. Prop. Q directs the Federal Government to spend less on the military and more for housing, education, health care, etc. We like that. (We also like the Tooth Fairy, the Easter Bunny and the God of Parking Meters. But they're not on the ballot. Yet...)



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VOTE YES ON PROP. "J"

by Kristy O'Rell

As the political witching hour approaches, San Franciscans will be bombarded by last-minute efforts to hold, sway and lock opinions of city voters. Certainly these tactics play a traditional role during election time, but for many of us, it is difficult to sort out the core issues.

A few years ago, Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth first introduced to City Hall what they tagged "The Children's Budget". After an alarming decline in monies being allocated toward children's needs (for example, daycare programs, health services and job training) during the Reagan years, Coleman and various other local activists decided to bring to City Hall a charter amendment that would not only maintain a minimum level of spending for SF youth, but offered new ideas for creating revenues to support new programs.

As a result, growing pressure on the Agnos administration led to the creation of the Office of Children, Youth and Their Families, making kids a concern not only of the government's but San Francisco as a whole. Of course, embracing the Children's Budget was not on the minds of legislators who disagreed where the money would come from and, dissatisfied with the City's effort to improve living conditions for its children, Coleman Advocates and Friends of San Francisco's Children (FSFC) drew up The Children's Amendment as a city charter amendment to be judged by the voters.

Petitions were signed by 51,140 voters and the measure was put on the ballot as Proposition J. Carol Hotnig-Callen of Coleman, who is well-aware that Prop. J has been treated like a hot potato, has researched enough statistics to provide basic reasons why Prop. J must pass.

San Francisco's kids comprise around 16 percent of its population. High costs of living and a strained economy have left many youth on the streets (5,000 homeless each year), dropping out of school (1,500 or 25% every

year) and basically being neglected by their own society.

The Gray Panthers, Alice B. Toklas Lesbian Gay & Democratic Club, Coalition for an African American Community Agenda and the Police Officers' Association are just a few of the endorsers of Prop. J. Mayor Agnos supports the measure as do challengers Richard Hongisto and Angela Alioto. (The North Mission News also recommends a YES vote on Prop. J.)

Just what will it do? Where's the money going to be funnelled from? Will a new tax be created? The Children's Amendment would first set a minimum spending standard (\$77 million, or 6 percent of the City's general fund) for children's services, such as libraries, health and recreation. Then, it would also take a small portion from property tax revenue - about 2.5 percent - to create mostly new programs, specifically child care, delinquency prevention, afterschool tutoring and the like.

Proposition J will not create a new department since each existing city department would handle the program(s).

"It's quite extraordinary how so many people have gotten involved," says Hotnig-Callen. "These last few weeks have been spent organizing precincts, putting up the new bus shelter posters... Sharon (Hewitt) has been working extremely hard to set up voting booths in housing projects across the city." Hewitt, a board member to Coleman Advocates and the Coalition for an African American Community Agenda, began the project two years ago and now booths can be found in Valencia Gardens, Bernal Dwellings, the Alemany projects and Potrero Hill.

"It sounds idealistic, but it really is giving the political process back to the people," Hotnig-Callen explains.

Not surprisingly, support for the amendment has been widespread and reflects the fear San Franciscans have of becoming another New York City. The petitions were carried by kids in little red wagons to the steps of City Hall and, while critics called it "bad govern-

ment", a September poll showed 75% of the voters felt otherwise.

Recently, the margin may have narrowed owing to the antipathy expressed by several publications, notably the San Francisco Weekly and the gay Sentinel and Bay Times, reflecting a desire by some to spend the money for AIDS, not children.

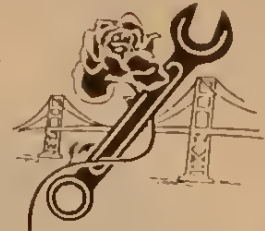
Whether or not mayoral candidates support Prop. J or whether "off the record" statements concerning Prop J's good intentions but inappropriate funding leak out as validations to disagree, the bottom line remains: either we seek preventative, long term goals or we simply hope things will get better.

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THE MAYORAL FRONTRUNNERS

by Brian Doohan

Richard Hongisto continues issuing position papers nobody pays attention to. Frank Jordan is feted at a downtown fundraiser thrown by a convicted socialite on probation for drug-money laundering. Tom Hsieh just says "No!" The minor candidates still try, usually unsuccessfully, to gain admittance to

community forums and televised debates.

It matters little. On November 5th, most voters in the Mission are going to punch in A.A... incumbent Mayor Art Agnos or renegade Supervisor Angela Alioto. They will not, however, have had a chance to vote on the real political overlords, the all-powerful and increasingly all-corrupt mass media.

AGNOS: THE ONLY MAYOR WE'VE GOT



"You say you want a leader, but you can't seem to make up your mind... I think you'd better close it and let me guide you into the Purple Rain..." (Prince, 1984)

Art Agnos started to lose it shortly after his election when he spoke before a huge crowd of supporters in the Longshoreman's building in China Basin. Expectations had been raised. Things were about to be gotten done.

And then the new mayor was asked if the people in the neighborhoods who had given him an overwhelming victory over the downtown candidate John Molinari would remain as a formal organization to interpret the concerns of the Mission, Richmond etc. into policy recommendations.

Art Agnos told them, in effect, to stick it where the sun don't shine. "Meet the new boss," as the old song goes, "same as the old boss."

It would be three years before he would reconsider and start a belated outreach to the neighborhoods through groups like the Mayor's Mission Task Force. One wonders whether, if the City had a law limiting Chief Executives to one term, the MMTF would ever have seen the light of day.

Agnos contends, and no reasonable person can deny, that the quality of life in San Francisco and the Mission would probably have slid downwards no matter who occupied the top job. There was the Feinstein deficit. The earthquake. The drought, which reduces revenues from the Hetch Hetchy water and

power systems. The increasing diversion of State and Federal funds away from the cities to the military and to the rich.

"What we've seen in the Art Agnos approach is response to the neighborhoods," said Supervisor Jim Gonzalez, filling in for Iliz-zoner at a local October 23rd forum. "While Los Angeles is cutting 911 service, Art Agnos has kept the City on an even keel financially."

Agnos just happened to be in Los Angeles that evening and he wasn't researching 911 service... a fact which underscored a growing perception that he has some reason for avoiding the voters.

During September and October, I made four attempts to appreciate Art at forums sponsored by the St. Peter's Housing Committee, the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods, the Coalition on Homelessness and the aforesaid. No other major candidate missed more than one of these. Agnos did not attend any although, according to one of the organizers of the homeless forum he drove up before the War Memorial building and sent a bodyguard in to check out who was in the crowd, then sped away.

The other candidates have seized on the fact that Agnos prefers out of town fundraisers to face-to-face encounters with San Franciscans and, on the 23rd, Supervisor Tom Hsieh said that he was tired of the Mayor sending "proxies" and that he would walk out unless Gonzalez departed.

"Should Angela send her father? Should Frank Jordan send Quentin Kopp?" Hsieh asked.

Alioto added it was unfair that Agnos keeps sending "agents" and Jordan suggested

that it was more important for candidates to be in San Francisco than out fundraising in Los Angeles, Chicago or New York (where Agnos was during the St. Peter's forum) because the people in those cities can't vote in San Francisco.

Gonzalez said "Nobody sent me here, I volunteered," but then told Hsieh he had another engagement. After a final speech in which he said that "Art Agnos gave the MMTF \$30,000, and when I have asked him to support legislation for the Mission, he gave an enthusiastic yes," he departed. As in the case of the other mayorless forums, the rest of the candidates then took the opportunity to take pot shots at the events of the last four years, the most telling being that of Assessor Richard Hongisto who blamed the disbanding of the Narcotics Strike Force, leaving undercover work to be done by uniformed instead of plainclothes cops, on "the ineptitude of the molasses mind who is running the City."

But besides representing both the initials of Agnos and Alioto, as well as an organization to which defective people can turn to for solace, AA also stands for a mediocre rating in municipal finances. As Gonzalez stated, San Francisco has stayed off this rating... but in a year or two, when all the deferred bills come due and unless there are new faces in Washington and Sacramento and one hell of a lot of rain, the shit will really hit the fan.

Real problems emerged in this year's budget battle, during which Agnos cut services and raised what have been called "regressive" fees and taxes while protecting big business... which is not that much of a contradiction given the Mayor's background

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in social work, the philosophy therein, and what really has to be contemplated in deciding "Four More Years?"

Something wondrous has been discovered in the last decade. Defective people... the sick, the homeless, alcoholics, seniors without bank accounts, the non-English speaking and just plain illiterates are no more liked than they have ever been, but they do represent a resource to be harvested.

Especially in San Francisco with its high rents and the flight of useful jobs, life's losers keep a small army of social workers, cops and jailers, providers of fly-by-night housing, training and hand-holding services, welfare bureaucrats and all kinds of degreed professionals who, for a price, will tell you what's wrong with you from falling, themselves, through the safety net.

And because when overeducated white collar do-gooders go hungry and get angry revolutions happen, money that would otherwise go to houses and jobs are sucked up by this black cabal of tsks-tsks. Just go try and

find some medicine, a bowl of stew or a cheap furnished room without some parasite with a German sports car and a title asking you to fill out thirteen miles of forms or for some urine or for you to tell them whether you've ever wanted to do something strange with your grandmother. Can't happen.

A fellow named Glydon in the November City Bike Magazine, has Agnosism down cold when he writes "... we have negotiated an agreed-upon moment in time from which reality proceeds in measured lock step. A treaty has been signed and hounties have been placed on the unsundered renegades."

Glydon's renegades tend to be smokers, consumers of substance, baloney chompers and unhelmeted bikers, but there is a political parallel to Art's orderly little world. Ask Food Not Bombs!

Or, as suggested by polemicist Mark Forrester, "If he's reelected, as probable, he can marvel at a victory won with so much money and so few friends and then proceed to whatever revenge he desires."

ALIOTO: DAUGHTER OF THE MAYOR WE HAD



"And suddenly he was sure that Fanucci had no great connections... He owed Fanucci no personal debt of gratitude, they were not blood relatives, he did not love Fanucci... why should he not kill Fanucci? Surely the world could do without such a person." (Mario Puzo, 1969)

Angela Alioto, on the other hand, is a bag of leaking, squirming contradictions. A nominal Agnos supporter since her election to the Board of Supervisors in 1988, Alioto threw her hat (and more importantly her purse) into the race only after Agnos' disastrous budget gutted grass-roots programs such as the Mount Zion Crisis Clinic (of particular importance to the Mission since severely mentally ill people now have to be driven in police vehicles to San Francisco General Hospital where they are more than likely to be turned away to wander the neighborhood) and the Mission Neighborhood Health Center.

It's unclear whether it was Angela or Papa Joe, Mayor during the 60s and early 70s, who tossed that Sicilian Hat (yeah, a racist but not unjustified observation... Francis Ford Coppola being one of her biggest backers and Mario Puzo's book remaining the best manual for the practicing San Francisco politician since a certain Mr. Machiavelli defined the art a few centuries ago) but it was clear that Agnos, like the Black Hand extortionist Fanucci, had suffered a serious erosion of his popular support. Instead of the neighborhood advocates that comprised his 1987 volunteer base, many of those going door to door and manning phones for Art are employees of the City and firms that do business with same. And it shows.

Her entry into the race also poleaxed the campaign of Assessor Richard Hongisto, who was licking his chops at the prospect of an uncontested assault on Agnos from the left. Hongisto has since been Alioto's most persist-

ent critic, even taking the unusual step of blasting the Sierra Club, one of Alioto's supporters, as being for sale to the highest bidder.

Despite her late entry and relatively short political career, Alioto has racked up a number of significant endorsements besides the Sierra Club, including, notably, the San Francisco Police Officers' Association and the Hotel and Restaurant Workers' Local 2, a union with almost as many resources as Agnos' City Employees' 790. "Angela has a track record of being good for workers," says Union President Sherry Chiesa.

"She's been there with us. She's walked our picket line and was one of the first supervisors to endorse the boycott of the Pare 55 Hotel." (This latter firm, accused of scabbing, is run by a close Agnos associate and financial backer.)

Early in October, Alioto was derailed by charges stemming from her disastrous 1986 campaign for Supervisor, in which she ran as the candidate of the downtown landlords and developers and got left for roadkill. At the behest of campaign manager Richie Ross, Alioto dressed up in a circus ringmaster's outfit to appear in expensive TV commercials, opposed the office development control initiative Proposition M and vacancy rent control, and wound up trailing not only the winners but now-Judge Julie Tang and activist Pat Norman.

The Ross-Alioto relationship lurked low like a submarine off Alcatraz while the young politician found another campaign team, changed her views on highrises and higher rising rents and got elected in 1988 while the consultant found his dream vehicle in then-Assemblyman Agnos. Now Agnos and Examiner publisher Will Hearst are making capital of the convoluted financial disclosures Ross signed off on with the not so subtle intent of giving Frank Jordan (perceived as an easier target in a December runoff) a boost up to second place.

The strategy should have worked. Instead of attacking the Examiner (remember: the Godfather neutralized Al Capone by meeting his agents at the station and chopping them to bits with axes, "... The tactic was successful. Not so much because of its ferocity but because of the chilling swiftness, the quickness of the Don's reaction...") Alioto retreated like a crab with claws up, denouncing the charges as motivated by sexism.

But then the Clarence Thomas - Anita Hill affair broke open and, at least in San Francisco, people started thinking there might be some sort of double standard after all. (The audience leaving the October 23rd forum where Gonzalez repeatedly interrupted Alioto's presentation while letting Hsieh, Jordan and Hongisto drone on seemed to think so too.)

The political experts who have heaped ridicule on Alioto for what they perceive as a scattershot "feminine" political style... focusing on individual people and their needs rather

than painting a broad canvas of policy details... went into hiding for two weeks and are only now starting to emerge again from the hunkers.

Then the Oakland fire happened and several days that the Examiner seems to have counted on for further Alioto-bashing went up in a puff of smoke.

In the Mission, the real impact of these charges has been to expose Alioto for what she is... rich. Agnos, Hearst and Ross are gambling that cafeteria workers, file clerks, hospital clean up crew and others making five or six dollars an hour will resent a woman who gets a job in her father's law office and makes enough for the Ferrari, the four kids, the house in Pacific Heights and the more than two hundred thousand dollar "advances" to political campaigns.

Envy and resentment are hot commodities in this decade of reverse Robin Hoodism... despite the fact that Agnos himself became rich in fishy real estate transactions, that Hongisto owns fourteen San Francisco apartment buildings, that Jordan has raised over \$600,000 from not only druggies but the even more predatory downtown fatcats and that Hsieh has tapped into an Agnos-like network of international Chinese finance reported to include a pair of New York criminal tongs.

On the other hand, voters have shown a tolerance for wealth, as long as it is flung about in a conspicuously classic manner. How else can the re-elections of Assemblyman Willie Brown of the six hundred dollar suits and the tobacco lobby, a figure well to the right of Alioto and perhaps Art Agnos' heir apparent in 1995 if the incumbent survives, be explained?

As for Alioto's purported inconsistency, quite a few people say if they had wanted to live orderly lives in stiff, gray suits, they would have moved to Tulsa, Minneapolis or Cincinnati. The thought of a "flaky" Mayor capable of changing her mind about a multi-million dollar project here or there because a single parent or a senior tells her that it will throw them out of their home terrifies the guys with the briefcases full of dead Presidents, but may appeal to many others.

As for the plump network of the bureaucrats and social workers who have been feeding off of San Francisco like so many ticks and fleas... well, Alioto's election would be about the same as Fido's unfortunate wandering into the path of a 22-Fillmore eight minutes late on its run. The resultant hopping and flopping will be magnificent to behold and, although one promise Alioto definitely will not keep is to replace everybody, there will be enough heads in the gutter to motivate the survivors into, perhaps, doing their jobs a little better.

"We have lost the values San Francisco is about," she told the crowd October 23rd. "When Art Agnos came into office three years ago, they were his values." She did not add further comment.

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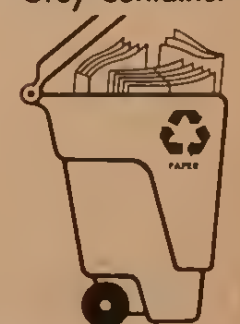
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LOCAL LATIN LONGSHOTS

- by Sara Catania

Although news accounts and television debates feature five candidates for Mayor there are actually eleven. Two of the so-called "minor" candidates, Gloria La Riva and Cesar Ascarunz, have made special appeals to Mission voters.

The other candidates are self-designated executive Dehnert Queen, promoter of the

Small Business Bowl in which sports and business counseling would be combined in one arena; Socialist Action candidate Joni Jacobs; Peter Planteen, owner of a clothing store disgruntled by the tearing down of the nearby Embarcadero Freeway and Party of Life perennial Ellis Keyes who proclaims "My philosophy is to make all resources available to life, and nothing for death."

LA RIVA: FEISTY ACTIVIST

When the top five contenders assembled recently for a debate at Golden Gate University, attention turned to an off-stage argument. "I am Gloria LaRiva, a candidate for Mayor, and I have a right to speak," a woman shouted.

The audience applauded and began chanting "Let her on, let her on." As LaRiva approached the stage, frowning and determined, a guard threatened to throw her out. Undaunted, she made her way forward. The crowd and mayoral candidate Angela Alioto encouraged her. The guard retreated. La Riva finally made it on stage.

It is not easy running a socialist campaign without a bankroll. Nevertheless, La Riva, a 32-year old typesetter, storms panels and debates, spreading a mayoral message that puts "people first, not profits". At least some voters are getting to know who she is, she said. But, with a campaign fund at just over \$5,000, La Riva admits she cannot compete on equal footing with the top five candidates. "The media, TV and newspapers decide who is going to be minor and who is major," said La Riva, her silver streaked hair pulled back into a ponytail. "They accept this concept that you are only a viable candidate if you have several hundred thousand dollars."

La Riva is convinced that "if we were given equal time, we would have a huge return in the polls. The so-called "major" candidates are offering lip service. We're offering a program."

Marcelo Rodriguez, editor of the San Francisco Weekly, described La Riva as "well-spoken with a solid head on her shoulders", and "one of the few candidates dealing with issues". The fundamental problem with her campaign, he said, is that she calls herself a socialist. "If she were to become mayor, she would be tossed into a sea of capitalism. She would have to use capitalist tools in order to push social programs ahead." He added that "it would be absolutely fabulous to see an electable progressive from a minority community, that would be my ideal candidates."

Ruth Picon, officer and former president of the Latino Democratic Club, said that, although Gloria La Riva practices progressive politics, she does not have broad-based support in the Latino community. "You have to do your homework to build a community springboard," Picon said. In the progressive part of the Latino community," she continued, "La Riva is reinventing the wheel. She's running all on her own. She hasn't tried to line up those of us who have been working in the community for the past 20 years."

Between bits of a hamburger doused in hot sauce La Riva outlined her platform while sitting at her bustling campaign headquarters at 21st and Mission streets. She wore a sweat-shirt, jeans and sneakers, and as she discussed her mayoral plan, she would occasionally break off, mid-sentence, to issue a directive or

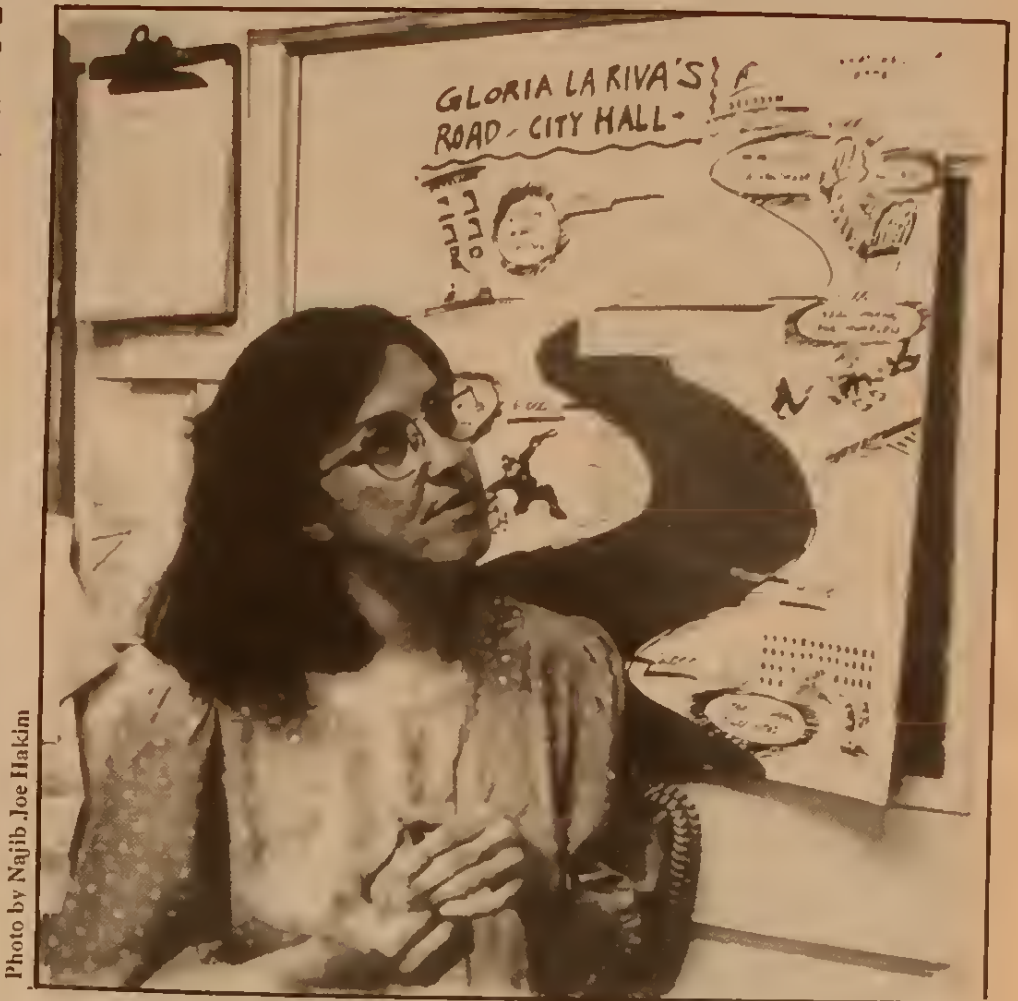


Photo by Najib, Joe Hakim

Gloria LaRiva in her Mission District headquarters.

ask a question of someone passing by.

"As mayor, I would mobilize people," she began with a hint of a lisp. "I would call a summit of mayors around the country to go to Washington and stay in the Capitol until people in Congress saw that we want arms reduced, that we want more money for jobs and for health care."

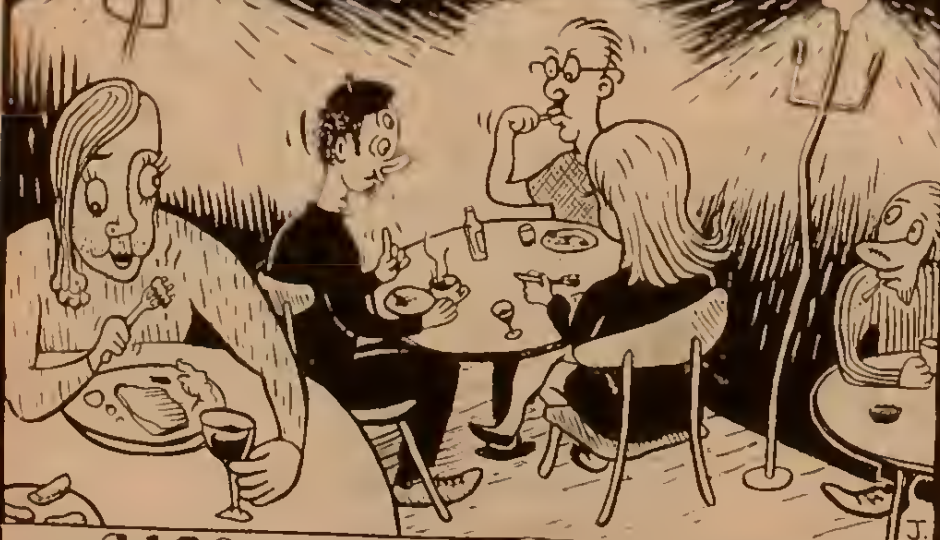
At home, she would declare a housing emergency, using San Francisco Emergency funds to provide care, including "decent temporary housing" for thousands of homeless people. "Everybody wants decent housing," she said. "People would rather live in the

streets than in a shelter where they're treated like prisoners or in rat and roach-infested hotels. La Riva says that there is no justification for anybody being homeless and that "housing should be provided for all regardless of ability to pay."

She would hire outreach workers to provide social help for the homeless and would conduct inventory to locate all abandoned and unoccupied units and warehouses in the city. She estimates that there are about 10,000 such units that could be taken over by the city, refurbished and used to house homeless and low-income people.

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La Riva would declare an emergency one-year ban on evictions and a one-year freeze on rents, "to help put tenants in a more favorable position in relation to landlords." The one year emergency period would give the city time to "take stock of the housing situation," she explained.

She would restore the \$130 million that was cut from housing and health care budgets this year, and would ensure that health care centers in neighborhoods provide primary and preventive care.

To raise funds for these programs, La Riva would impose a 2 percent tax on gross receipts of big business. This would raise more than \$20 million, she said. A .10 percent fee on Pacific Stock Exchange transactions would generate the additional \$41 million.

More revenue would be generated by cutting salaries of the mayor and administrators to the average city worker's wage. The mayor currently makes \$130,000. An average city worker, LaRiva estimated, makes about \$22,000.

If elected mayor, LaRiva would "stop police harassment of Food Not Bombs", an independent organization that gives away free food and has had numerous highly publicized confrontations with the police. La Riva would put an end to "massive ticketing, indiscriminate towing and the Denver Boot," calling San Francisco's parking ticket policy "a regressive tax on workers". She opposes the Mission Bay development project and opposes building a new baseball stadium.

La Riva is not a newcomer to politics. A San Francisco resident for ten years, she ran for Mayor in '83, coming in third with 5.4% of the vote, behind Dianne Feinstein and Cesar Ascarrunz. She was the principal coor-

dinator of the Emergency Committee to Stop the War in the Middle East, a grass-roots organization that held marches and rallies throughout the Persian Gulf War. She also ran for vice president in '84 and '88 on the socialist party platform with Larry Holmes as her presidential running mate.

Gloria Estela La Riva grew up in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the daughter of a postal worker and a cleaning woman. She and her brother and four sisters started work early. By the age of 11, she was "baby sitting and ironing clothes for the rich people". Her money went towards family expenses, but she was able to attend Brandeis college in Boston on a minority grant. She studied politics, Spanish and German for a year while working in a doughnut shop and as a secretary.

"I always got very frustrated in school," she said. "It was that way for a lot of third world students. I worried about my parents, and my brother and sisters. We were very working class and I felt like if I were out of school I'd be able to help them."

La Riva left Brandeis and held various jobs in New York, including working as a groomer at a race track. She organized the Fairport News in Rochester and then volunteered at the Rochester Patriot, writing articles and learning typesetting, a skill she uses now as an employee of the San Francisco Newspaper agency. She joined the Worker's World Party in 1978 at age 23.

La Riva is true to her socialist agenda. "Some day a socialist will be elected in a major city," she said. "With the imminent collapse of the financial system and rapid increase in layoffs, people are starting to act. If I got elected there would be major progressive changes."

ASCARRUNZ: VETERAN VOTE SEEKER

On election night Mayoral candidate and nightclub owner Cesar Ascarrunz says he won't be waiting for voter results. He's planning to go to the ballet — Mikhail Baryshnikov's White Oak Project at Zellerbach Hall in Berkeley, according to the personalized invitation he places on the table in front of him.

"I am going to see this dance because life does not end on election day," explained the three-time mayoral contender, fingering the engraved cream colored invitation covered in tissue paper.

Ascarrunz spoke from Cesar's Latin Palace, the nightclub on Mission Street he has operated for most of his 30 years in San Francisco. Recently he opened a second club by the same name in Reno. The Mission Street night club has hosted close to a thousand benefits for nearly as many organizations — running the gamut from the Mexico City Earthquake Relief Fund and the Italian Soccer Club to the United Farm Workers of California and the Mobilization for Peace, Jobs and Justice.

"If somebody needs something, they come here," he said, dropping two sugar cubes into a styrofoam cup of coffee. "Earthquake,

Central American issues, women's rights, right here. Why don't they go to Agnos, the city cultural centers? They come here. This is the people's place." Making the leap from nightclub ownership to city management, he reasoned that "If I can help them here, think what I could do for the city."

If Ascarrunz were in charge, he says he'd run the city like a business, cutting costs and maximizing the city's potential as a tourist attraction. Born in Bolivia, Ascarrunz calls San Francisco "one of the most beautiful cities in the world".

His vision includes cleaning up the poorer neighborhoods like the Mission and the Tenderloin. "You think I would like to live in the Tenderloin? No, my friend, not even if I was crazy." He would relocate "degenerate people" to temporary housing at China Basin. "When they behave and want to come back, then you let them come back. If crime is near, you isolate things. If you are sick, you isolate the virus. You isolate and cure the sickness after that."

A recent run-in with the law left Ascarrunz more determined than ever to put a police department shake up at the top of his list of mayoral priorities. "The police broke every



Cesar pressing the flesh.

law and violated the constitution against us," said Ascarrunz, still smarting from the indignity of being shut down last summer for allegedly serving alcohol without a license.

Despite almost guaranteed defeat, he remains optimistic, having invested \$50,000 of his own money in the campaign. As Mayor, Ascarrunz would offer incentives to others who wanted to start businesses like his. "The Mission was a ghetto before I came. I put lights on the Mission district. Before, it was nothing. I did that."

Ascarrunz has been indirectly involved in politics for many years — backing various candidates. "I helped Moscone and Alioto when I was a teenager. When I was a business owner in North Beach, I helped Harvey Milk. I never knew he was gay. I helped him because I liked his style. I introduced the whole North Beach Community to Harvey Milk and then he won."

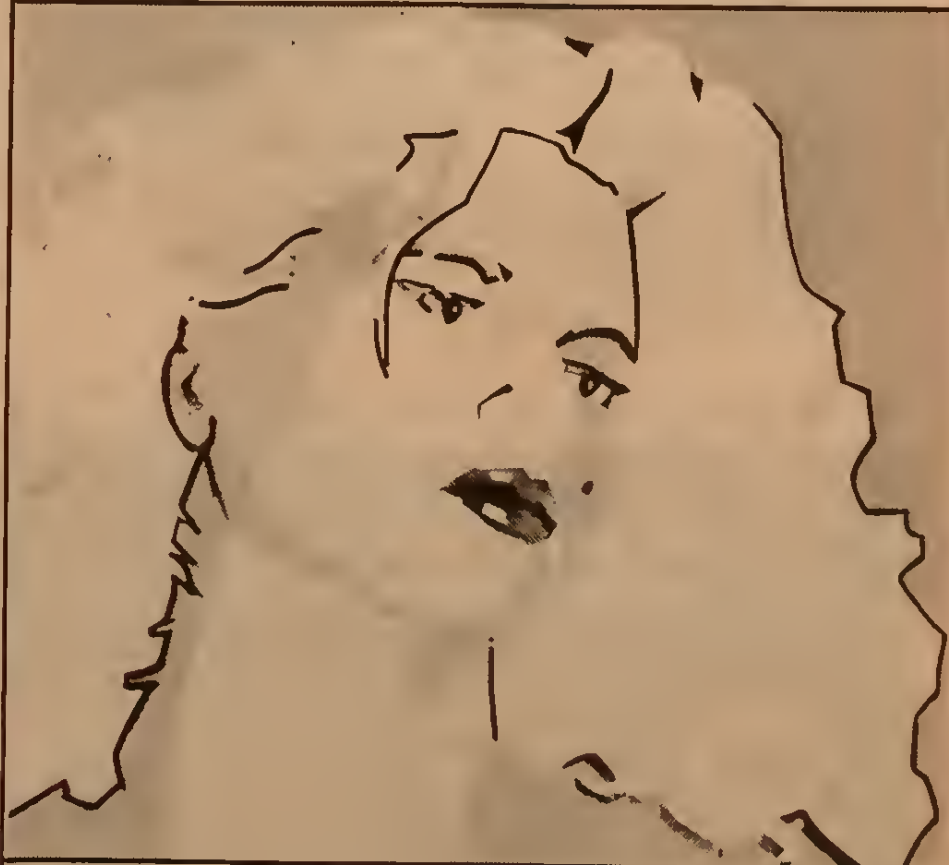
If elected, Ascarrunz said he would continue to run the Palace. "I'm not going to change just because I'm an administrator. I

would work my day hours over there. More importantly, keeping the Palace would keep me in touch with the neighborhood associations. You know, I'm a community-oriented person."

When asked about the other mayoral candidates, a seemingly random string of observations and accusations flowed from his lips. "I helped Hongisto win for assessor. He knows that. He said he would not run for mayor. Alioto is running for her father. When he was mayor he called the homeless hippies and just kicked them out of the city. Hsieh says 'I bring the Denver Boot to San Francisco'. Yes, to the poor people. The rich people pay their tickets and the poor people get the boot."

As the interview ended, he whistled a few bars from "I wish I were an Oscar Meyer Weiner". "I wanted a hot dog for lunch," he laughed. "I was at City Hall checking my record — my police record is completely clean — I saw the hot dog stand on the street but I couldn't get one because they were about to ticket my car."

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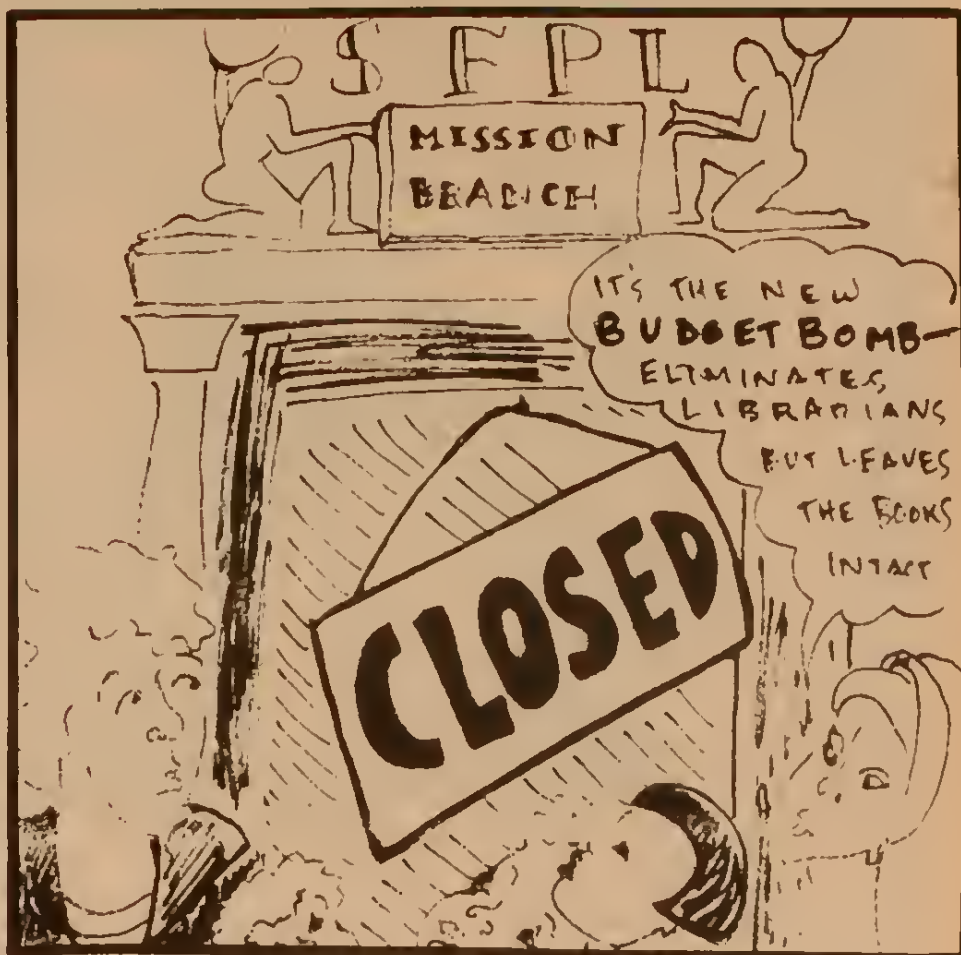
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MISSION LIBRARY MAY FACE HARD TIMES



- by S. Pantos

The oldest library building in San Francisco, the Mission Library branch will receive whatever renovation funds remain from the 1988 Prop A library bond funds after four other neighborhood library branches have completed their renovations.

If no monies remain, the Mission Library will have to look elsewhere for renovation funding. A San Francisco Civil Grand Jury, in 1990, issued a report that found Prop. A proponents misled the voters as to the number of branches that could be renovated by the monies allotted under Prop. A. The bulk of Prop. A funds will build the New Main at Civic Center. It is scheduled to open in 1995.

This past summer the Library Commission withdrew a new grant proposal to remodel the Mission Library. The Commission voted to withdraw its support of the Mission Library grant and, instead, to substitute an even larger grant request to the state so that it could remodel the Chinatown Library branch.

Mission Library patrons are asking if the Agnos-appointed Library Commissioners' grant submission shuffle wasn't meant to help Mayor Agnos mend some fences in Chinatown that were bent out of shape by the Embarcadero Freeway teardown decision.

Top administrators hope that word of Sacramento's approval of grant monies to remodel the Chinatown Library branch will occur early this fall.

So there's good news, bad news and really had news for public library patrons in the Mission.

The good news is that the Mission Library has been transformed to serve the needs of its multi-cultural and multi-lingual community as a result of a three year program funded by state and federal monies from a Partners for Change grant.

The Partners for Change grant monies were used to buy foreign language materials, E.S.L. (English as a Second Language) cassette programs, books, magazines and bi-lingual dictionaries for use by a flood of immigrants and refugees that came to the Mission in the '70's and '80's from Latin America and Southeast Asia.

The foreign language materials are in Spanish, Vietnamese and Chinese. The grant also provided funding for the hiring and training of bilingual library staff. Mission Librarians and staff conducted numerous programs to reach new community members from children to adults, in addition to its established programs and outreach for its English speaking patrons.

Missions Library branch manager Debbie Cornue says circulation is way up this fall and

the new children's story-telling hour in Spanish is a big hit on Saturdays. She says the library hopes its newest patrons using E.S.L. cassette programs to learn English will become English language materials users in the future.

While other branches, including the Main at Civic Center, have had their budgets drastically cut over the four years of the Agnos administration, the Partners for Change monies let the Mission Library build a needed community based collection that people use.

The bad news is that the Mission branch is in its last year of funding. It seems likely that its buildup of foreign language materials and its bilingual staff will be scattered when the final year of funding is over and if a planned building renovation with Prop. A funds commences.

With the expiration of the Partners for Change monies and the receipt of low priority for Prop. A renovation funds, the withdrawal of this latest grant is another example Mission residents can point to where City Hall has made the Mission a forgotten neighborhood.

The really bad news is that no city official, to date, has come up with a plan to restore library branches that have been degraded into "Reading Centers".

The really bad news is that no city official has a plan to restore branch library hours, staff and book budget cuts to their pre-Feinstein levels and increase them to keep up with soaring costs for library materials.

No city official, including Mayor Agnos who was in Sacramento at the time, has endorsed the legislature's special library tax exemption provision following Prop. 13's passage. That exemption allows cities and counties to exempt libraries from Prop 13 limits by passing their own library tax measures.

The City of Berkeley, with a much smaller tax base, has passed such a library tax and is a healthy example for San Francisco to follow. The San Francisco Library Commission enters its second year of study of such a funding plan.

Neighborhood library advocates, seasoned by annual struggles to maintain neighborhood library service, are discussing plans of their own to take the issue to the voters.

Some activists are calling for a ballot initiative with a provision for an elected Library Board whose members may be elected from districts. Other neighborhood library advocates assert that the budget drain in the offing from the buildup of top administrators and state-of-the-art technology at the "New Main" can be averted and balance restored to the San Francisco Public Library branch system.

MODERN TIMES CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

- by Timothy Wager

Modern Times Bookstore, a Mission fixture for years, is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. The list of events in commemoration may well include a big change for the store.

Modern Times, begun as a collective in 1971, grew out of the Socialist Revolution newspaper (now the Socialist Review). None of the original members of the collective is still with the store, but Pam Rosenthal, Michael Rosenthal and Jean Pauline have been part of the store for the last 19 years. Other current members of the collective are Ruth Mahaney and Tede Matthews, who have been there for 10 and 8 years, respectively.

The communal feel extends beyond the store itself, as each member is involved in some other way in the community. Both Rosenthals work on the Socialist Review, Mahaney is a Women's Studies professor, Pauline works at the Bay Area History Archives and Matthews is part of the Mayor's Task Force on the Mission Arts Subcommittee.

Besides the collective members, the store employs only a handful of people, called substitutes. They usually work in the store one or two days a week, putting in time until they, too, can become members. Modern Times also has a customer membership which includes approximately 700 people. Membership costs \$15 a year, and members receive 10% off on all book purchases, as well as the store's monthly mailing — a calendar of readings and events, and short reviews of new books.

Although Modern Times started out of a Socialist newspaper, leftist literature is not the only thing to be found in the store. "Sure, our political appeal is to the left, but we know that our customers want to be able to find the latest murder mystery, travel and healthcare books, too," says Tede (pronounced "Teddy") Matthews.

The store's reputation as a leftist political clearinghouse and its actual selection of books can place Modern Times in a difficult posi-

tion. "A lot of people believe that the only thing they'll find here is Marx," Matthews explains, "and won't come in because they're not Marxists, but just as often, people on the far left won't come in because they feel we're not radical enough for them."

Despite any difficulties that this might cause, Modern Times has enjoyed its best year ever in 1991. "It's surprising to me that just when many people are claiming that the political left is dead in this country," Matthews smiles, "a politically left bookstore like ours is thriving."

Ironically, the war in the Persian Gulf is partially to answer for Modern Times' recent success. During the war, the store held forums to keep its clientele informed, and many people came in to find books that could help them understand better the recent events in Iraq and Kuwait.

The past year has been so good for the store, and the future looks so bright, that the collective's members are considering a move from its current address on Valencia early in 1992. The change wouldn't take the store far, though, just a block north to a larger space on Valencia. "We would never leave the neighborhood," Matthews reassures, to a customer's worried inquiry.

It is hard to imagine what the store will be like in a bigger space. The quality and diversity of titles at Modern Times is so rich as it is, that it almost boggles the mind to think what Matthews and company could do with more room. By purchasing few copies (1-3) of any one book, the store is able to maintain a huge catalogue of titles in the relatively small space it has now; a larger, more diverse Modern Times would be a truly phenomenal bookstore.

In order to accomplish the move, Modern Times has been helped by friends who have pitched in with low or no-interest loans. If you want to be a part of improving and expanding this great store, call them at 282-9246.

Operating in the way they do has allowed the store to build vast selections in areas in which general bookstores are often weak. The

20 YEARS!



topics covered by these sections are in keeping with the collective's members' awareness of, and sensitivity to, the needs of the Mission community. The Spanish language section is particularly good, containing not only hard-to-find Latin American literature in the original, but also an array of titles translated into Spanish from English and other languages — from Milan Kundera to Our Bodies, Our Selves.

Modern Times was the first bookstore in San Francisco to carry lesbian and gay literature, and these sections are quite good as well. The inclusion of a separate section of books on AIDS and coping with AIDS and HIV is very helpful.

Besides the normally busy schedule of readings and events planned for November (stop by the store for a calendar), Modern Times will be celebrating its anniversary with a dance party and performances on Saturday, November 23rd at the Women's Building. The bill includes Dr. Loco's Rockin' Jalapeno Band and performance artists Sara Felder, Josh Kornbluth and Pomo Afro Homos. Tickets are priced on a sliding scale of what you can afford — from \$15-25 in advance and \$20-25 at the door.

Modern Times Bookstore is located at 968 Valencia, and is open Monday through Friday from 11 to 8, Saturdays 11 to 6:30 and Sundays 11 to 5.

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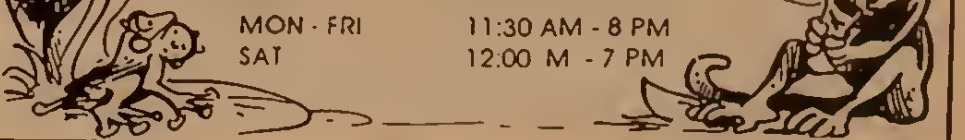
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NEIGHBORHOOD BEAT

MT. TOXIC



Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

The enormous mound of dirt pictured above became an instant and toxic playground for neighborhood kids when it was left in a parking lot on Valencia Street. The Operating Engineers' Union local was moving from its location at 480 Valencia to Oakland when the new property owner, Centro Del Pueblo (a coalition of non-profit agencies), became

aware of toxins in the soil caused by the removal of an old gas station years before.

The Union was then required to clean up the site but, for some reason, piled the dirt and excavated contaminants in a huge heap that remained for nearly a month before finally removing it.

PAY N' PAK DEPARTS

The discount hardware and gardening supplies chain store Pay n'Pak closed its doors for the last time in October, victim of a corporate buyout.

However, the large building at the corner of 15th and Folsom Streets won't remain vacant. Food For Less, a Southern California discount operation, will be moving into the property early next year.

The Mission may actually be a winner for the change. Not only will a lower cost grocery outlet be welcome to local shoppers, the new

firm could be a substantial source of jobs.

"Food For Less promised to give first hiring priority to the laid off Pay N'Pak employees," said Roberto Barragan of the Mission Economic Development Association. "After that, the next tier will be from the neighborhood, then anybody else."

This will be the first Food For Less store in the City. Other branches have been opened in the South and East Bay. With the Canned Food Warehouse only a block away, this corner of the Mission is rapidly becoming the focus of affordable eats in San Francisco.

NORSE HONORED



Photo by Jason Albertson

On October 18th, Mission resident Harold Norse received the National Poetry Association lifetime achievement award in a ceremony held at Fort Mason.

Norse, a major figure in the Beat Generation, is the author of 12 books of poetry, a cut up novel ("Beat Hotel") and the "American Idiom", a compilation of 10 years of correspondence between Norse and William Car-

los Williams.

Norse is regarded by many as one of the major contemporary gay poets. In his recent autobiography, "Memoirs of a Bastard Angel", Norse viciously attacked the Mission District from which, he says, he has been trying to escape for the last decade.

We're sure you're only kidding, Harold, so congratulations.

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A CLASSY AFFORDABLE GALLERY

- by Timothy Wager

Pterous Art Etc. is yet another welcome addition to the North Mission gallery/coffeehouse scene. Artist P. Tracey Ludwin opened the gallery on August first this year.

"Pterous" (pronounced "terrace") means "with wings", and Ludwin figures that wings are just what she needs as a first-time business owner. "My full name is Paula Tracey," she explains, "but I've gone by P. Tracey for a long time. I started looking in the dictionary under 'pt' when I was naming the gallery. The word struck me as appropriate, and it might bring me good luck." With the kind of hard work she has put into the gallery, and the support of the community that she is receiving, she probably won't need the luck, but wings can never hurt.

Ludwin was born in Philadelphia, and arrived in the Mission three years ago via New York City. She is self-taught, and has been creating her art "ever since I can remember". However, she began to sell her work only since arriving here. "There's more of a sense of community among artists here," she says. "In New York, if you tell another artist that you're one too, he or she will treat you as competition, but not so in San Francisco."

Ludwin is a sculptor, and claims folk art of the South and Southwest states as influences. She works mainly with materials and objects that she finds — on the street, on the beach, or in the desert. Animal bones are one of her favorite materials, and the desert is a good source for them. She combines disparate elements with ingenuity and a sense of humor to create interesting pieces of an iconographic nature.

Her works on display range from a guitar with a mule bone for a neck and decorated with shards of glass and mirror, to wall figures carved from styrofoam and painted with house paint, to small reclining figurines made from sculpting clay and embedded with trinkets, baubles and beads. "Using these discarded objects in new ways is my great pleasure in my art," P. Tracey declares.

The atmosphere at Pterous is very



Photo by Jason Albertson

relaxed. A circle of rocking chairs around a low coffee table invites visitors to sit and talk while enjoying the works on the walls. Despite the many items for sale — on shelves and in cases ringing the space — a feeling of sparseness dominates the gallery. Viewers glide in unharried and unannounced — the front door is propped open. Ludwin greets prospective customers with an easy familiarity.

P. Tracey's easy manner extends to the prices of the pieces she sells. "There is something for every budget here," she stresses. Indeed, the sheer variety of artwork and range of prices at Pterous is impressive. There are more quotidian items such as jewelry, handmade greeting cards and decorative refrigerator magnets. But these

aren't the only affordable items available — the pieces of the art proper start as low as \$30 for some pieces. If you happen to be a more serious collector, you won't be left out by visiting, either. Some of the more ambitious and impressive works are museum-quality colorful folk paintings on panel by Josie Sommer and a mixed media boxed wall hanging by John Jeffries.

And the variety of art here grows nearly every day. "Not a day goes by that I don't look at new work by someone I've never met," Ludwin declares. When she opened Pterous, all the artists were friends of hers. But now, only two months later, she estimates

that 30 of the pieces are by people she had not met before. Ludwin is "always willing to take a look at new stuff." "But," she reminds, "please make an appointment before coming over."

With the influx of new work, and individual artists changing the pieces they exhibit at Pterous often, each visit will prove a new experience for the frequent gallery-goer. Ludwin installs a new show just about once a month. The upcoming show at this writing is "Masks & Monsters", with works in papier mache and ceramic. The exhibit lasts until November 20 to coincide with both Halloween and Day of the Dead celebrations.

As if all this weren't enough, Ludwin hopes to expand the range of items for sale at Pterous even further. "I'm interested in being a presenter of all types of art: self-published books by San Francisco authors or demo tapes of local bands," she offers. "I'm open to nearly anything." She is also tentatively exploring the possibility of using the gallery as a performance space for poetry readings, acoustic music or performance art.

For a new business, Pterous has quickly developed a good working relationship with the community. The "Masks & Monsters" show, for instance, will be put on in conjunction with The Boys Club of America, located right across the street from the gallery. Furthermore, there will be a benefit concert for Pterous on December 4 at The Chameleon Club. Performers will include Lavay Smith & the Red Hot Skillet Lickers, and tickets are only \$5.

You can do your part to support this vital addition to the neighborhood by attending the benefit, submitting your artwork or, most importantly, visiting Pterous and coming away with one of the fine works you'll find there.

Pterous Art Etc. is located at 483 Guerrero between 16th and 17th Streets; the phone number there is 255-9041.



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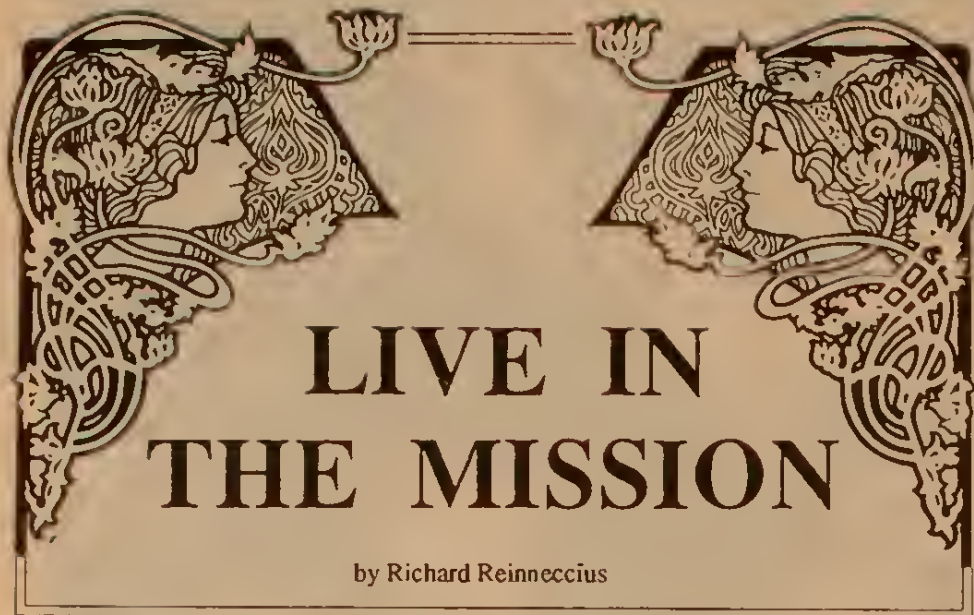
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LIVE IN THE MISSION

by Richard Reinneccius

The Mission is so full of the arts that the annual Open Studio Tours has to divide our neighborhood into East SF and West SF, roughly at Harrison Street, for its annual public tour of living artists working in their studios. While this column usually covers the performing arts (which are also thickest in The Mission), the Open Studio tours are a very special live SF treat that shouldn't be missed.

The tours take place over three weekends. East SF you've missed, and will have to wait for next year. The other two, West SF (Nov. 2-3 and Hunter's Point (Nov. 9-10) will be hosted by the balance of the 524 artists involved. Maps are available at all Real Food stores, at the South of Market and Mission Cultural Centers, or call 861-9838 for info.

CREATIVITY EXPLORED, at 3245 - 16th Street west of Guerrero, is the "studio" of five of the artists featured in the tour. I previewed the work of one of them, Cam Quach, a refugee from Vietnam. Coming here in 1982 with her brother and sister-in-law, Cam was put into programs for the developmentally disabled by the City's welfare people. She had been considered mentally handicapped since her birth in 1926, although totally physically able.

Because she spoke no English, most of the programs couldn't deal with Cam, and she landed at Creativity Explored, then on 24th Street, and was given brushes, pens and paper. To the astonishment of her family, who did not remember her ever trying to draw or wield a brush, she took to visual expression with excitement, soon becoming one of the most prolific of the clients in the program, which has only recently opened in San Francisco in 1983, begun by Elias and the late Florence Katz, who also pioneered similar programs in San Jose, Oakland and Richmond.

Six years ago, CE hired Mission sculptor Horace Washington to teach ceramics. From the moment Washington introduced Cam to clay, she came alive all over again, and rapidly put down her brushes and drawing tools to shape animals and humans, in larger and larger scale and quantity.

Now, she and Norma Cativo, an El Salvador refugee, work side by side, mildly competing to put out more pieces, with an ever-surprising creativity. She can complete a large head or intricate animal sculpture in two or three days. Occasionally she picks up a brush or pencil "for relaxation", in the words of the staff. Cam's works are now selling at commercial galleries, and at Creativity Explored, for prices from \$20 to \$600.

If you missed the open studios week-end, Creativity Explored is always open to the public to view the work taking place. You can drop in to take a quick look, but the staff wants you to call ahead if you want a tour, or to be shown the work of a particular artist. Small groups can also be accommodated, but call James or Sally at CE for an appointment - 863-2108.

Cam Quach's works will also be on display at Stanford U's Student Union from November 12 through December 31, and as part of a travelling display throughout Mexico for the coming months. Gallery Imago at 639 Post, SF, will feature her work from December 3 through January 4, along with 6 other Creativity Explored artists. Call Gallery director Will Stone at 775-0707 for info.

PREVIEWS

Theatre Pomegranate, the new company in its tiny new space at 495 Clementina (off Folsom at 6th Street) is performing another new play by co-founder Colm Wood, whose works have been praised here before.



Cam Quach at work.

This one, "Ribs", is about a clairvoyant computer hacker who knows how to help a young actress get an L.A. agent, and thus fame and fortune. Directed by Laura Meshel, the other TP co-founder, it's on my "must see" list, and should be on yours. "Ribs" plays Fridays and Saturdays at 8 through November 16, sliding scale tickets \$4 to \$8. Call 512-7965 to reserve.

A couple of wild plays about religion are on at The Dolores Street Community Center, 200 Dolores at 15th Street. Performed by The Fourth Monkey Ensemble, Christopher Durang's controversial (banned in St. Louis) "Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You" and Harry Kondoleon's "The Fairy Garden" will play Thursdays-Saturdays Nov. 7 to 16, with a Wednesday performance Nov. 13 for the Dolores Street Center. Reserve at 841-4048.

Cintra Wilson premieres her newest "large scale play" entitled "Soul Hunt" at a new performing space, 30 Rose Street, in Mr. Fives cafe and dancehall, through November 17th. Its basis is C. J. Jung's "Modern Man in Search of a Soul", and is an "audience-interactive" evening, which means you get to play dress-up like the actors. Call 255-9005 to reserve.

At Intersection, 446 Valencia near 16th, Mission performers Guadalupe Garcia and Genny Lim, along with a band headed by Her-

vie Lewis, will play their new work "La China Pablana", directed by Mark Knege, from November 7 through the 24th.

And 21 Bernice, located conveniently at 21 Bernice, between 12th & 13th Streets south of Folsom, is celebrating its first full year of shows, premiering "Brilliant Traces", by Cindy Lou Johnson. Scheduled through

November 8, maybe longer "Traces" is about a runaway bride, involved in an unlikely love story with a hermit in Alaska. It's just \$7, or free to anyone on UI or government assistance.

Our favorite sleuth Scar Tissue came to town October 30, staying through November 17 in Dell'Arte Players' "Fear of Falling", the final segment of the company's "Redwood Curtain: The Scar Tissue Mystery Trilogy". If you loved the first two - "Intrigue at Ah-Pay" and "The Road Not Taken", do catch the final episode. If you missed 'em -aha!- they're both playing, too, in repertory with "Fear of Falling" from the 2nd to 25th of November. All will be at the Cowell Theater, Pier 2, Fort Mason, near the "other end" of the #22 Fillmore or #49 bus lines from The Mission. For ticket info, call the Cowell, 441-5706.



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-by Jacqueline Elizabeth Letalien

To men a man is but a mind. Who cares what face he carries or what he wears? But woman's body is the woman." (Ambrose Bierce) "The only alliance I would make with the Women's Liberation Movement is in bed." (Abbie Hoffman) "Women? I guess they ought to exercise Pussy Power." (Eldridge Cleaver) "The only position for women in SNCC is prone." (Stokely Carmichael) "I suffer not a woman to usurp authority over men, but to be in silence." (St. Paul)

voyeuristic and histrionic U.S. senators would have us believe, sexual harassment is not rape. It is not a heinous crime. It is not a perversion. It is not the behavior of a sociopath.

Sexual harassment is a pervasive, endemic, insidious behavior that disrespects, humiliates, degrades women. It occurs in the home, work place and on the streets. It can be as blatant as an inappropriate touch to the hair, breasts or butt. Often it is a glance, whisper, innuendo or "joke".

It is an attitude. It has devolved to the attitude that if women want to have men's jobs, then they have to endure men's locker room and urinal talk. It means women are subjected to questions about marital status and presumptions about sexual preference. Whether she is a secretary or executive officer, it can mean a woman's evaluation and promotion depends on her feminine sociability, personability with male supervisors or even co-workers who want her to stroke, date or fuck.

Not one U.S. senator demonstrated that he knows what sexual harassment is. Every senator demonstrated that he fears the ramifications of women speaking out. More than half demonstrated that, once again, a crime against a woman is no crime at all, that

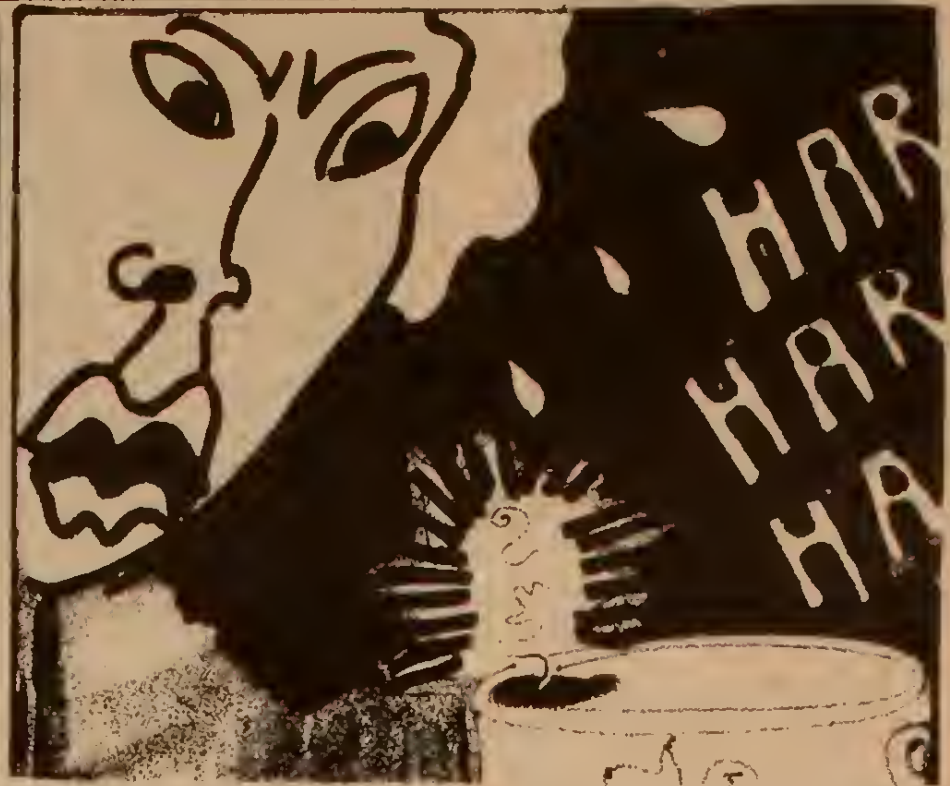
a crime against a woman is outside the law and judicial system.

Thomas may believe his denials. In the case of sexual harassment, most abusers see absolutely nothing wrong with their behavior. For them there is nothing to forgive, regret or even to remember. There is nothing to charge, defend or prosecute. Clarence Thomas refused to fire or even investigate a man at the EEOC who had harassed several women of the staff (who all made complaints). Thomas authored a report segment that recommended that sexual harassment cases should not be considered or investigated since they are not serious complaints.

Often this male behavior is socially tolerated while women are discouraged from complaint. Anita Hill reluctantly came forward before a panel of fourteen white men to state her experience. While most women have been subjected to sexual harassment, only 7% make formal complaints. Once a complaint is made, the chances for her relief are minimal.

Most sexual harassment incidents occur without benefit of witnesses. In this instance even the word of a woman, four corroborating witnesses and a lie detector test did not hold the same weight as in any other criminal proceeding. Even though two other women made complaints against Thomas, Anita Hill was left to stand alone. She was subjected to ignorance, slander and arrogance.

Among the "evidence" was testimony from four women who had no personal knowledge of the circumstances. (These are four women who took the prone position.) The irrelevant hearsay testimony of these witnesses was given equal sway and ultimately their statements were treated as fact. Their testimony resembled quotes from the neighbors of a man who goes berserk and kills his family: "well, he was quiet and kept to him-



self; he didn't seem like a person who would do this." Such circumstantial statements in both cases belie the actual occurrence; the fact remains his family is dead, or a woman has been sexually harassed.

In the face of this blatant disregard for the dignity of women, I have some suggestions. For those who believe in political process, hang up your affiliation with the Democrats and Republicans; NOW wants to start a women's political party. (The way women got the vote was to organize a political party.) For those of us who do not believe in political process: create and support women's

organizations, businesses and establish alternatives to the current legal, governmental systems and institutions. Spend your dollars where they directly affect the lives and visions of women.

The next time you encounter a sexual harasser let him know you are offended. Especially if harassed on the job, keep a dated, clearly stated log and alert confidantes so that they can be witnesses for you. Break the silence, tell your stories. Absolutely no woman should stand alone or be silent. We must stand together; raise our consciousness, hearts and voices.

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NEW JOX CITY

by Michael J. McAvoy

At first, it seems incongruous — the Bay Area's most explicitly radical college starting a sports program complete with an intercollegiate basketball team. Then you hear the nickname of the team — the Doves — and listen more closely and the pieces fall back into place. New College's Sport and Society Program was begun to challenge the control of athletics and athletics by monied interests in this country.

The program at New College is the brainchild of Guy Benjamin, former All American at Stanford, quarterback for the Forty Niners and, to the chagrin of the administration of Stanford and the owners in the NFL, a political activist and labor organizer.

In addition to Benjamin, the faculty includes Marie Hoglund, a sports psychologist, consultant and black belt in karate, Jonathon Staggers, former NFL player and activist and David Meggesy who is currently the West Coast representative for the NFL Players' Union.

The program has several facets. First of all, it is a way of helping those most directly exploited by the system — college athletes, mostly minorities — to reconstruct their lives. Secondly, it looks critically at sport in a capitalist country and how it is abused and how it abuses. Finally, through the basketball team, Sport and Society attempts to envision a new way of playing sports, as well as re-prioritizing college athletics within the educational institution.

At most universities, the function of college athletics is to bring in revenue directly through the athletic department or, secondarily, through the development of name recognition and greater alumni donations. The raw material for this industry is the college athlete. In this system, false promises are made to the athlete of a pro career and/or maybe even an education.

Neither of these is true. The reality of a pro career in sports is dismal. In football, one in a hundred make the pros, in basketball, one in five hundred.

An education is equally elusive. Only 4% of high school athletes receive an athletic scholarship. Only 25% of that number ever graduate... one percent. African-American athletes fare even worse.

The Sport and Society Program at New College attempts to help these men and women by bringing them back to school to complete their degree and find a career. It is designed for working people emphasizing evening and Saturday classes. Students work closely with their advisers. And perhaps, most importantly, every student does an internship with a community agency. This gives them the experience, through practice, of a new way of relating to the world.

Today, two years after its inception, the successes of the program are beginning to make changes in the world. Eighty percent of the enrollees at New College graduate. Doug Harris was briefly with the Warriors and came to New College as a beer truck driver. Doug is now the job development director for the Ingleside Community Center. James Payne, who was driving for an airport delivery service is now a teacher and coach overseas.

Kelly Wesley was working two security guard jobs. He now works for the San Francisco Unified School District with troubled kids and families and will begin work towards his graduate degree in psychology in the Fall. Keith Hazell works for the Mayor's Office in the Project Excel youth program. Other graduates have found positions as coaches teachers, counselors, recreation directors and working in the community as youth guidance

counselors.

The program is more than just a way of helping exploited athletes readjust to the real world. The content of the program is explicitly radical. Courses examine the political and economic construction of sport under capitalism as a way of reproducing race, class and gender oppression. Strategies for developing resistance through labor and other kinds of organizing are explored.

Students learn about the way athletes are used by the culture to sell everything from beer to sneakers. They examine the crude racism and classism embedded in the Nike profits made on the backs of inner city working class kids and families by dangling the unreachable successes of Michael Jordan, Jose Canseco and Bo Jackson before them. Equipped with this new understanding and knowledge of sport, the New College student/athlete/graduate create for the next generation of student athletes, in their new careers, a counter argument to the slick Madison Avenue line, as well as some critical distance when the Army/Air Force/Navy Marine ads appear at halftime.

Finally, the program is attempting to re-envision and reconstruct ways of relating to sport and physical culture which are not about aggression and unbridled competition.

The New College Doves, the intercollegiate basketball team, is used as a laboratory for workplace democracy. The amount of time spent practicing is minimal, a lesson in reprioritization itself, and the emphasis is on collective process, expression and empowerment, not win at all costs (of mind, body or spirit). The team has games throughout the Bay Area with SF State, USF, Dominican College and, in a clash of symbolic as well as physical realities, plays teams from the Army, Navy and Air Force.

Anyone wishing more information should contact Guy Benjamin at the New College Sport and Society office, 777 Valencia Street, or call 558-8204.

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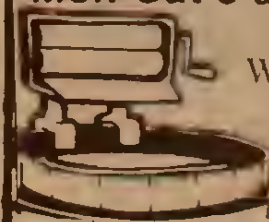
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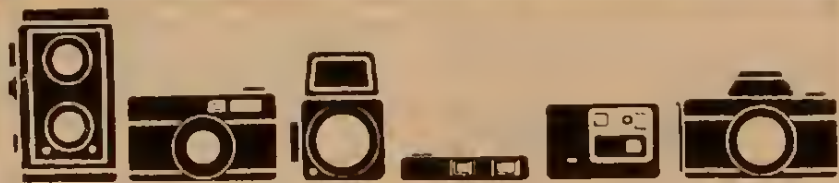
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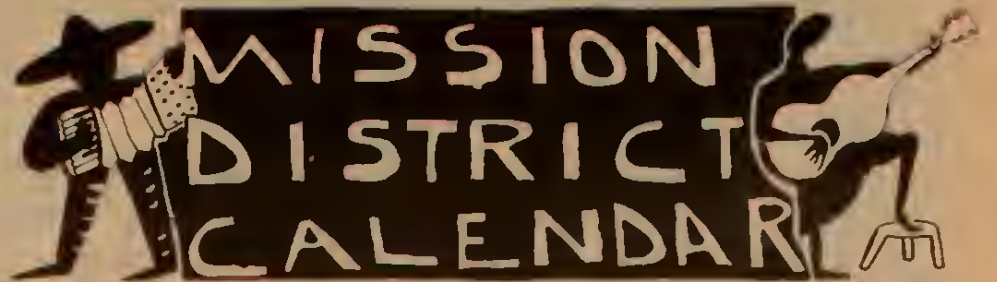
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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Ice Cream, Bread and Puppets All Over Columbus - an interesting collaboration of the Bread and Puppet Theater of Vermont and Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream treats Christopher Columbus' "New World Order" and the "morbid preoccupations of European culture" at the Eureka Theater, 2730 16th Street. Various complicated audience participation roles available, \$8-14 through 3rd, call 885-2790 for info, times and reservations.

Two Evenings of Dance - by the Margaret Jenkins Dance Company at New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th at Shotwell. 8 PM, \$7, 863-9834 (also 2nd).

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Latin American Book Fest - readings, children's stories and panel discussions at the Concourse Center, 8th and Brannan (also 3rd). Special events include a dialogue with Lesbian and Gay authors from Mexico and Cuba, Saturday 11 AM, and a panel on "Writers of the West" on Sunday with Victor Villasenor, Gus Lee, Linda Niemann and Leslie Marmon Silko. 10 AM to 6 PM, Free!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Dog Obedience School - a four week course in discipline hosted by Bob Gutierrez. All dogs must wear collars and owners must bring treats and proof of shots (for the dogs, that is). 11 AM at the SPCA, 2500 16th Street, \$35-45, 554-3000.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Ask Isadoru - the "Ann Landers of Lust" answers NC-rated questions and signs copies of her new book dealing with all of those hamster rumors and the Snakey Lick Trick at Good Vibrations, 1210 Valencia, 7 PM, 550-7399.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Election Day - vote in your favorite mayoral clown and be sure to mark your ballots as the News directs: YES on Propositions J and M for children and affordable housing, NO on K and N against bigots and condominium evictions.

The Sea Gull - Chekhov's classic interpreted by Linda Ayres- Frederick and Julie Dimas-Lockfield at the Phoenix Theater, 301 8th Street at Folsom through December 15th. \$10-13, 621-4423.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Hol 'N' Soft - a celebration of lesbian sexuality based on fantasies, coyote stories, wet dreams and the personal experiences of Muriel Miguel, co-founder of Spiderwoman Theater in New York. 8 PM at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th Street through December 1. Times and information: 861-5079.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Pirate Revenge Comedy - Theatre Au Naturel returns to the Capp Street Theatre, 362 Capp performing "Black Eve" about a legendary pirate queen of the 17th century. 8 PM through 23rd, \$7, 929-8894.

Burning Man - video footage of a pyromaniacal ritual held in the Nevada Desert at Club Townsend, 177 Townsend at 3rd (974-6020).

Mud - Theatre Ground Up bring you a bare bones love story about ironing, pigs and money at the Late Night Marsh at Cafe Beano, 878 Valencia through 30th. \$5-8, 641-0235.

Nuns and Fairies Fight It Out! - the Fourth Monkey Ensemble reprises Christopher Durang's "Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You" and Harry Kondoleon's "The Fairy Garden" at the Dolores Street

Community Center, 208 Dolores through 16th. \$6-8, 841-4048 for times and reservations.

Erotic Sumi Ink Paintings - reception for artist Beth Katz at Good Vibrations, 7-9 PM. Exhibition continues through the rest of 1991 at 1210 Valencia near 23rd, 550-7399.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Put the "X" Buck in Sex - Solo performance artist Ruven Hannah brings his new work "Sex, Etc." to Studio Rhinoceros weekends through 24th. 2926 16th Street, \$8, call 861-5079 for times and reservations.

The Architecture of Doom - Peter Cohen's study of Nazi aesthetics and "beauty through violence" at the Roxie, 16th and Valencia through 24th. See calendar for times or call 863-1087.

Bilingual Poetry Reading - Chilean poet and concentration camp survivor Fernando Torres at Morphos Gallery, 544 Hayes at Octavia. 7 PM, \$4, 626-1936 or 333-7641.

Total Dance Training - dancer and choreographer Keriak conducts a free, anti-Post Modern workshop at a secret location during which photos will be displayed and refreshments served. For information, go to a secure pay phone and call 285-6422.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Amendments: Sagas and Tales - reception for art by several L.A. lawyers at the Intersection Upstairs Gallery treating our Constitutional erosion. 5 to 7 PM, exhibition through December 15th. 446 Valencia, 626-ARTS.

Utopian Fantasies - New Age California films of an impossibly optimistic future including game show host Wink Martindale in "Year 1999 A.D.", an H.G. Wells art deco classic "Things To Come", old World Fairs, Get Smart think-drinks etc. ATA, 992 Valencia, 8:30 PM, \$5. 824-3890.

Turn Your Pumpkin Into Fertilizer - an advanced composting workshop on how to improve your garden with earthworm bins, green manure and other unwanted, buriable organic matter (small, incontinent animals? Jehovah's Witnesses? Democratic presidential candidates?) at the Garden for Environment in Golden Gate Park. Sponsored by SLUG, call 468-0110 to pre-register.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

The Two Mujeres - Sara Levi Calderon's Mexican bestseller about the love between Jewish women in Mexico City discussed by the author and panelists including Modern Times collective member Tede Matthews (see article) at New College, 777 Valencia, 7:30 PM.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

After the Failed Soviet Coup - Quaker activists discuss events in St. Petersburg (so long Leningrad!), Riga, Latvia, Kiev and Moscow at New College, 777 Valencia. 7:30 PM, \$3-10. Sponsored by S.F. Greens, 255-2940.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

The Sexual Goddess and Her Sacred Prostitutes - drift eastward from Capp Street to Good Vibrations, 1210 Valencia near 23rd wherein Cosi Fabian discusses "Aphrodite's beauty secrets", "banished shadows" and "your wondrous vulva". 7 PM, call 550-7399 for the mandatory pre-registration.

Barravento (The Turning Wind) - Cine Accion's Cineteca presents Brazilian classic films at New College, 777 Valencia. 8 PM, \$4-5, 553-8135.

Malcolm X: The FBI File - Clayborne Carson speaks on his new book at Modern

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Calendar of
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Times, 968 Valencia. 8 PM, Free, 282-9246.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Born With Teeth - a fringe community of anarchists, queers, pagans and homeless postmodernists do this and that at New College, 777 Valencia. Also 15th, 8:30 PM, \$5-10, 821-3668. "We throw good parties," the performers boast, "and someone always talks about sex."

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Bread and Butter Dance - series at footwork, 3221 22nd. New works by Arturo Fernandez and Ney Fonseca with guest artists, 8:30 PM (also 16th), \$8, 824-5044.

The Good Woman of Bangkok - a "documentary fiction" by Dennis O'Rourke following a Thai prostitute who caters to "male tourists who flock to Bangkok from around the world in search of cheap, exotic sex." Through 22nd at the Roxie, 16th and Valencia, pick up a calendar for times or call 863-1087.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Tribulation 99 - Craig Baldwin's shock-documentary about the Last Days with fundamentalist Hal Lindsay and Orson Welles "Late, Great Planet Earth and other Christian death-trips at ATA, 992 Valencia. 8:30 PM, \$5, 824-3890.

Cat Obedience School - the SPCA sponsors Trouble With Tabby at 2500 16th from 10 AM to noon. \$5 donation requested (cheaper by far than dog training), call 554-3000 to register.

Rat Obedience School - Horticulturist Pam Peirce discusses "Pest Management Without Guilt", and shows slides to help identify common pests and "manage them" in a small garden at New College, 777 Valencia, 10 AM. \$6-10, call SLUG at 468-0110 to register and to be sure that your face doesn't show up in Pam's slides.

Improvisations From Out of Nowhere - music, theater and movement from Bob Ernst, Ruth Zaporah and Rhiannon at New College, 777 Valencia. 8 PM, \$12, 524-4528. Also 22nd (Bob and Ruth only, Rhiannon will be Elsewhere) and 23rd.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Mobius Operandi - creates "folk songs from the post-industrial age" out of aluminum and steel sound sculptures, phosphor bronze, brass, wood, piano strings and magnetic coils at New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th Street, 8 PM (285-7888). This performance will feature free improvisation, but tickets are \$7 at the door.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Five Hundred Years of War Against Indigenous People - discussion and video by Bob Castillo ranging "from Columbus to Wounded Knee" at New College, 777 Valencia, sponsored by the San Francisco Greens. 7:30 PM, \$3-10, 255-2940.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Vidas Secas (Barren Lives) - Cine Accion's Cineteca presents another Brazilian classic film at New College, 777 Valencia. 8 PM, \$4-5, 553-8135.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Life Can Never Be Too Pink - dance by Mary Reid at Footwork, 3221 22nd at Mission, 8:30 PM (also 23rd). \$8, 824-5044.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Industrials Amok - ATA's perverse fascination with informational films of the 50s and 60s unearths Frank Capra's postwar propaganda piece de resistance "Your Job in Germany" plus Civil Defense clips, Mob and Riot Control training films, slo-mo Crash Tests and a Censorship Lesson for Kids. 992 Valencia, 8:30 PM, \$5, 824-3890.

Modern Times' 20th Anniversary Celebration - Come down to the Women's Building for music, performance and a lot of words. See article, this issue, call 282-9246

Song and Distance - performance music by Miguel Frascini in which rocks are played, a piano is wrapped, texts turn to ashes and the night concludes with a rarely heard 1931 sound poem "Ursonata" by Swiss Dadaist Kurt Schwitters. 8 PM at New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th Street, \$8. (510) 4288-0136.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Pet Rent Seminar - a three hour workshop on how to present yourself and your pet to potential landlords. Down, Cujo! Sit! Heel! Roll over! Play dead!... he hasn't finished signing the lease. 6 PM at SPCA, 2500 16th Street, now... Attack! \$15 donation requested, 554-3000. Good dog!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30

No-Thanksgiving - films and videos from Hopi, Maya, Kayapo and Mohawks at ATA, 992 Valencia. 8:30 PM, \$5, 824-3890.

Topophilia - no, not a convention for fans of little Italian mice, but a series of dance and music pieces from Jeff Friedman, Butch Rovin, Barbara Bennett and Michael Sand. Shostakovich and originals works on clarinets, violins and computers - Community Music Center, 544 Capp. 7:30 and 10 PM (also Sunday, 7:30 only), \$8 at the door, reservations 550-1271.

ONGOING

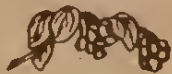
Theatre: "Brilliant Traces", an unlikely love story, at 21 Bernice Theater near 12th and Harrison through November 8, 863-5946 for info or reservations. Antenna Theater's "Caveat Emptor" continuing at Theater Artaud, 450 Florida through December 1 (621-7797). Monday night performances at the Marsh at Cafe Beano, 878 Valencia (641-0235 for performer schedule).

Galleries: "Jaime and Einar de la Torre", glass sculpture at Back to the Picture Gallery, 934 Valencia through November 11th (826-2321). "Women on Women", juried visual art exhibition at the Women's Building, 3543 18th Street November 20th through January 3rd (431-1180). Walking tours of Mission murals with "Precita Eyes" every Saturday at 1:30 PM from 348 Precia, \$3 (285-2287).

Words: "Public Address", a multi-character rant by Charlie Varon (inventor of the "Visualize Impeachment" bumpersticker, highly praised by Scoop Nisker and Cyra McFadden, identified in the press release as a Communist for the San Francisco Examiner) at The Marsh at Cafe Beano, 878 Valencia through December 1st (641-0235). Poetry six nights a week: Sundays Above Paradise (11th and Folsom, 861-6906), Mondays at Chameleon (853 Valencia, 821-1891), Tuesdays at Farley's in Potrero Hill (648-1545), Wednesdays at Forest Books (3080 16th, 863-2755), Thursdays at Cafe Babar (994 Guerrero, 282-6789) and Fridays at Cafe Beano, 878 Valencia, 558-8112).

Health: AIDS information in the free publication "Positive News" published by the SF AIDS Foundation in English, Spanish, Filipino and Chinese. Call 863-2437 for copy. "Applied Meditation - Intuitive Problem Solving", avoid burnout, defeatist thinking through this 30 hour course conducted by Margo Adair beginning November 8th, 221-1621.

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And, contrary to the trite fairy-tales we're told in school, the Natives didn't serve up a Thanksgiving dinner to the poor pilgrims at Plymouth colony. The first exercise of the invading Europeans was to cruelly enslave the Natives and to abscond with their harvest. The European-Americans (the white people) never had a good reputation since the day they got here. So what are we going to do about that???

ARIES (MAR 21-APR 19): It's gonna be really hard to control your sex thing this month, so shed your shyness and ignore any embarrassment. You're one hot cookie during this time of the year and everybody just loves to watch you twist and turn in erotic postures for all to see. If the physical aspects of this month-long orgy become aggravating or exhausting, concentrate on your sexually-defined

roles like being a mother, a husband, a sister etc. In any case, please practice safe sex.

TAURUS (APR 20-MAY 20): Look into the deep, sensitive eyes of your lover this month, heave one of those massive sighs of thankfulness, and let yourself become a slave with nothing else to do except making him/her totally happy. Overcome feelings of obligation or indebtedness; you don't owe him/her a thing and the mere thought would create a murky fog between you. Pucker up those big, warm, soft lips of yours and give, give, give. The coziness of the holidays is your favorite time of year.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUN 20): The annual health review is the major project for this month, so get all those tests and examinations you've ignored through the summer. Educate yourself in the procedures and processes by talking to the people who are waiting in the doctor's office with you. If necessary consider a neighborhood support group if you run into a lot of emotional stress. By Thanksgiving you'll find yourself in tip-top shape, just in time for an exciting new job/project.

CANCER (JUN 21-JUL 22): You're either going to feel twenty year younger than you really are this month or you're going to be

teased by a hot item twenty years your junior. Having invested so much of your time in convincing yourself of your maturity, you will probably be shocked by the radicalism of the New Youth Movement. This kid loves to suck on your nose and untie your shoes. It drives you mad to slobber all over each other. You must teach this young thing respect.

LEO (JUL 23-AUG 22): The accumulation of money continues to fill your wallet, your bank account and your secret hiding place at home. You'll be much happier if you keep your prosperity quiet because, if the word gets out, you'll have tom, dick n' harry pestering you for a hand-out. There's only one place where you could turn a little good financial luck to someone else's advantage, and that's at home. This month, buy several symbols of your love for your family and housemates.

VIRGO (AUG 23-SEP 22): Well, well, well... looks like the workaholic of the Zodiac has finally run out of things to do. All the problems have been solved. Sick situations have been cured. And the impending lull is just about to drive you start raving mad. It's too easy to dream up a bunch of phony problems and delusionary crises in a vain attempt to make yourself feel useful. You'll do much better to don your old houserobe, read some new books, and putter... just putter.

LIBRA (SEP 23-OCT 22): November is generally a big money-making month for you, as long as you are constantly clear about what you need the money for. Maybe you've been wanting to move into a nicer neighborhood, maybe you've been dreaming about a trip to Bali, or maybe there's a great seminar you want to take with a friend. Concentrate solely on the big-ticket item and eliminate all other temptations. Success is guaranteed by the time Thanksgiving rolls around.

SCORPIO (OCT 23- NOV 22): During your birthday season you want to let all the charm and magic of your personality be recog-

nized and respected. It's quite possible that you'll have better luck if you take the risk of finding new friends instead of expecting the same old friends to be your greatest fans. As several strangers come into your life, assure each that you're not interested in commitment right now, but if they want to hang around till next spring, possibilities abound.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 23-DEC 21): The annual season for taking big-time risks is upon you. You've dreamed and wished; you've visualized and meditated. You have psychically created enough of a dent in the space/time continuum that there's plenty of action rolling toward you. It's definitely time to make your major move and put everything on the line. Unabashedly declare your power even in the most trivial situations. Right now you need followers more than friends.

CAPRICORN (DEC 22-JAN 19): Been wondering why professional or job associates have been standing back from you lately? Been wondering why you've been picking on waves of weirdness from others as you go about your daily business. Maybe it has something to do with that selling pre-natal fetal tissue or live hearts for transplants is difficult for anybody to get off on. Your business is offensive to a lot of the "normal" types, so they react. Get used to it.

AQUARIUS (JAN 20-FEB 18): Saturn sits prestigiously at exactly 0-degrees of Aquarius at the beginning of the month and finally starts his direct approach to the center of your zodiacal sign. The ponderous realism

of this symbolism draws plenty of attention your way, just make sure that it's not the "poor thing" kind of pity. You deserve much better. Push your way through the crowds of depressed addicts and the skinny outcasts, and take your moment in the sun. You are fantastic still.

PISCES (FEB 19-MAR 20): While experiencing a great spiritual enlightenment in the month ahead, you are gently warned not to fall into any brainwashing or cult groups which demand that you accept their way of how things should be. Your way is the best way, and don't you forget it. These long lists of shoulds and shouldn'ts are basically designed to shake the money out of your pockets into theirs. You must find a more noble way to implement your crusade. Nobody's wrong, only different!

For more information on astrological consultations, please write: Robert Cole, P.O. Box 884561, San Francisco, CA 94188.



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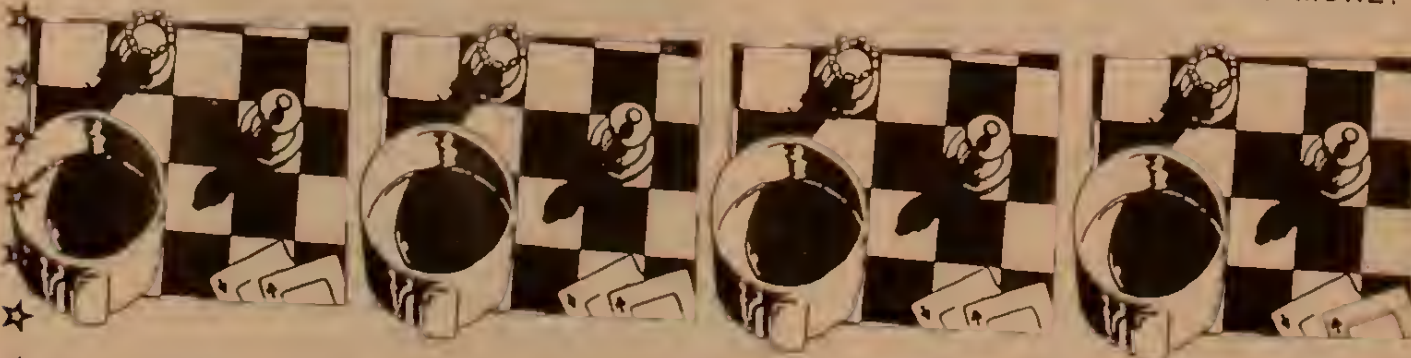
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COLUMBUS WAS A CRACKHEAD

by Frank Deadbeat

"Keep it local" the critic says — "write about the neighborhood" he says, "your surreopolitical bullshit is boring the pants off your readers" — gesturing out the window at some corner crackheads and a passed-out wino who, sure enough, has no pants.

What can I do but leave nonplussed, trace intercontinental highways like my map of veins, blow smoke into the white crack dawn: I see the same sweet poison mist rolls down all pyramids across all oceans on the trade winds... Following this stream of thought I meet Columbus and Pizarro at the Picaro drinking glasses of red. Columbus and Pizarro just released from astral prison — did a hundred nickels apiece — "paid their debt to history" but I see they're unreformed, still trying to con the natives for a rock.

"These and other lost explorers may be found in our quaint neighborhood — rich in local color but of course prone to exaggerate — the visitor should beware of faulty maps — the tourist better watch his ass."

A cold Andean wind through bleak stone streets — a thunder crack reverberates from mountain passes, rock falls sheared away to settle in a coarse white powder on the Mission — superimposition of an older timeplace: one-eyed brujo beckons to the European from a stone hut doorway, looks like a bent brown snaggletooth in rotten mouth where cultures mingle — lies stirred by a nimble European tongue are blown across the dust of centuries —

A fine white smoke inhaled through glass is promise to explode the prison of this history by a willed destruction of flesh — false promise of these veins and streets — false smoke — the pyramid of banks and governments and cops in symbiosis with the handits in the passes keep it going, brown white poison flows in blood, disease contagious as the lie blows cold from high —

With sails unfurled, with guns, a cross the ocean blue — 500 years of lies obscure us, powder falls from cracked white walls of Mis-

sion Dolores — white dust settles on the brown black yellow red bodies on the cross we brought — false promise bought with blood — white black yellow brown red hands just released from prison tremble at the first cold powder blast out of the mountains into neural pathways, superimposition of another mind — or into lowland bottle dance like drunk injun, same cold wind flap smallpox blanket.

At dawn Columbus and Pizarro with the new world shakes are scoring for a rock of gold, just one more rock to silence ghosts that follow — ghosts of a murdered people and their murderers will follow through your veins forever down the crack dawn streets — 16th & Mission not paved with gold, boys, sorry...

"... just one more night, man, pay you twenty let me crash and borrow five tonight, the check should clear tomorrow..."

Jaws tight, hands shaking near the hilts of swords, Columbus and Pizarro glower resentfully when they see I'm not buying it — "S'blood! These natives are begrudging us the gold and hospitality which is our due as agents of the Crown and Cross! Load cannons!" and they go into their cutup routine:

Columbus passes wind into a bent brown bandit mouth — Pizarro has no pants, a white crack shaking intercontinental with this rotten history of new world bodies and another mind not paved with gold —

(a fine white smoke bought blood at the first superimposition — pay you one more night of bullshit boring lost explorers through these streets, forever high on yellow red black dust of history — obscure bleak ghosts I meetin mountain passes tremble at the willed dawn mind, 500 years of poison, jaws tight but I see they're high on cold and on a mission to an older timeplace where no astral prison beckons — no drunken hrujo dance for nickels, did a hundred tourists bent down by a debt to faulty maps) —

with crack of guns and one-eyed cross the pyramids reverberate across the ocean — to a doorway where the dawn blows flesh (lost with the promises you bought) — a rock of



gold, "just one more rock through blood forever, man, and prone to borrow five tomorrow."

Not today, boys, not tomorrow, not again

— I'm keeping my shit local from now on. In fact the critic and I are asking you to leave.

Blow out the smoke. Turn out the light. We've had it with you conquering bastards.

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